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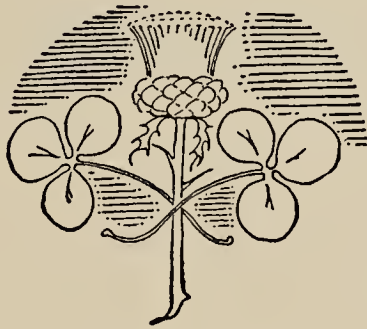
HISTORY OF BRIDGEWATER



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HISTORY of BRIDGEWATER Maine



by
Annie E. Rideout

1953
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Acknowledgments

In writing the history of the town of Bridgewater it has been my aim to gather all the data available on the early settlers. At first it seemed an easy matter, but as I began to write I soon found it became more and more involved. There were changes in farms to be traced as far as possible, many intermarriages to be sifted out, cross checking of facts and dates to be done, and a great many other details to be completed—all of which took a great deal of research.

The year 1900 seemed a good stopping place, for after that date no new farms were cleared and people coming to town seemed to be newcomers. The last fifty years is known to everyone, so is not history in the sense that the first hundred years are.

I have tried to make it as complete as possible and to include all of the early settlers to the best of my knowledge and to get the facts as nearly right as possible. If there are errors, and there may be, it is hoped they may be pardoned, and if any family is omitted it has not been intentional. Being so far from the source of information has made the task of writing difficult.

Without the typewritten histories of Cyrus Snow, written about 1909, which gives the history of the Boundary Line, and the one of the Center by J. Fuller Bradstreet, written about 1930, my task would have been almost impossible, as these two histories gave much valuable data that otherwise may not have been available.

I wish to thank the following people who contributed information: Elmer Fulton of Warren, Maine, for the Fulton history; Mrs. Etta (Collins) Parker, Caribou, and Mrs. Flora (Barrett) Welch, Mars Hill, Maine, for the J. H. Collins and the Barrett histories; Charles Murphy for the story of Corner Fire; Adelbert Raymond for the story of the Tannery; Edith L. Hary, Law Librarian, State Library, Augusta, Maine, for the photostat; H. A. McIlroy and Philip A. Annis, Dep. Comm. of Education, Augusta, Maine, for the story of Bridgewater Academy; Mrs. Hilda Morse and Scholey Kingsbury for the Grange; the Postmaster General and The National Archives Office in Washing-

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I also wish to thank the many people, too numerous to list, who gave me their family histories and answered my many letters for information, and the many who gave me odd facts and stories. I wish to thank my sister, Mrs. Bertha Stevens, and Mrs. Dorothy Sturtevant, both of North Belgrade, for their great help and inspiration, especially when my pen seemed to lag.

It is hoped that those who read this book will get as much pleasure as I have had in writing it.

Annie Rideout
North Belgrade, Maine
June 23, 1953

Introduction

In the year 1827 the town of Bridgewater was a vast wilderness. What courage it must have taken for those early pioneers to leave the comforts of good homes, to leave friends, churches, and schools to come here and hew new homes and farms from the trackless forests so far from markets. What vision they must have had. Of even greater courage were the women who were willing to endure privations, hardships, and possible hunger to follow their husbands into this new land.

In the years that are past, what changes have taken place! Gone are the forests. Gone are the hoe, the scythe, and the rake; and almost gone is the workhorse. In their place are the open fields, the tractor, and other mechanized farm machinery.

What changes those pioneers would see in the methods of living: electric lights, bathrooms, furnaces, refrigerators, deep freezers, radios, and televisions; and railroads, automobiles, and airplanes in the methods of travel. Most of these things were then even unheard of. What would they say could they come back and see our modern methods of living? Could they keep pace with us or would they say, "The world is living too fast; our way was best?"

Our town has grown nearly eight times its size when it was incorporated in 1858, from a population of less than five hundred to one of over twelve hundred. It is a prosperous town, and modern, with good churches, an excellent school system, service clubs, modern homes, and excellent farms.

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How the Town Was Named

The town of Bridgewater is located twenty miles north of Houlton in Aroostook County. It is bounded on the north by the town of Blaine, on the south by Monticello, on the west by D Plantation, and on the east by Canada.

The largest stream in the town is the Prestile (on maps marked Presque Isle) which has its source in the town of Fort Fairfield. It crosses the towns of Presque Isle, Easton, Westfield, Mars Hill, and Blaine and enters Bridgewater near the northwest corner; it flows south-eastward and leaves the town at the Boundary Line where it enters Canada, then on to the St. John River.

In order to know how the town got its name we must go back in history to the time when Maine was a part of Massachusetts.

As early as 1647 Massachusetts passed a law that towns of one hundred families must have a grammar school. Then came the time when the people felt the need of higher education, so academies were established.

By 1796 there were eleven such academies, seven of them in the Province of Maine. In order to support these academies grants of land were made, most of them in Maine. At that time many of the unpopulated townships were known only by numbers. Whole and sometimes half townships were given to the academies, the sale of the land going to support them.

It was on January 7, 1803, that a half township in Aroostook County

was given to Portland Academy, Portland, Maine, and on February 4 of the same year that the other half of the township was given to Bridgewater Academy, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. These were known as the Bridgewater Academy Grant and the Portland Academy Grant, Bridgewater being the northern half and Portland being the southern half.

Since there was one Portland in the Province of Maine there could not be another town by the same name, so it was called Bridgewater for the Massachusetts town. Portland Lake takes its name from the Land Grant in which it is located.

When the township was surveyed it was marked off into lots, those in the Bridgewater Academy Grant containing 160 acres. There were 72 lots in this Grant—twelve lots wide, east and west; and six, north and south. The lots in the Portland Academy Grant contain 120 acres; therefore there are many more lots somewhat smaller.

The exact center of the town today is on the south line of the property now owned by Harvey A. Tompkins and at a point where the northeast corner of land owned by Harry Simonson and the northwest corner of land owned by Charles Simonson meet said Harvey A. Tompkins' land. A cedar post at this point, placed by surveyor Carpenter, is still standing, but the center may also be located by measuring 400 feet South from the center of Whitney Stream Bridge to a point where the center of Bootfoot Road intersects the Main Road, then measuring east 512 feet to the center of the town.

U.S. Highway crosses the town north and south on an almost compass line through the center of the town.

The following population table will show the growth of the town from 1850-1950. Growth has been slow but steady.

1850— 143	1910—1238
1860— 491	1920—1212
1870— 605	1930—1238
1880— 722	1940—1267
1890— 946	1950—1279
1900—1179	

1827

Nathaniel Bradstreet

In the year 1827 the town of Bridgewater was a vast wilderness. The only white men to have trod its virgin forests were a few lumbermen

from the Province of New Brunswick who came to cut the giant trees and float them down the then unnamed Prestile Stream and into the St. John River and from there to St. John City to be cut into lumber for the English markets.

The first man to come here with the intention of making a home was Nathaniel Bradstreet of Palermo, Maine, who came in 1827. Having heard of the vast uncut forests in this part of the state, he, with his two sons John and Joseph, came searching for a mill site.

They probably came from Bangor to Houlton—since Houlton was being settled at that time—and no doubt from there they went to the St. John River and up the river, probably exploring all the streams that flowed into it including the Presque Isle (called today the Prestile). On this stream he found his ideal mill site where another stream, then unnamed (Whitney) joined it, a swift-flowing stream between two hills with a narrow channel below. Nowhere else could he have found a more ideal spot.

He then returned to Palermo, got a legal claim of the property and after settling up his business there returned with his family in the winter of 1829.

Why winter? Since there were no roads then, only a trail through the woods to Houlton, the easiest time of year to travel was winter by sled. Mr. Bradstreet hired a neighbor with four oxen and a sled to bring his household goods and family to his new home. His oldest son, Joseph, came a year later with his wife and young son Gustavus.

As soon as the family was settled in their new log house Mr. Bradstreet began cutting trees and clearing land for his mill which was to have an up and down saw. This was no easy task, for the logs had to be cut and hewn by hand, from waterwheel to ridgepole. Then a dam had to be built to hold the water back in order to have power to run the saw.

After weeks of work from dawn to dark, at last the mill was ready for work. When the gates in the dam were opened and the water wheel began to turn and the saw, about eight feet long, began to move up and down, what a thrill he must have had, knowing it was the work of his hands and the help of his sons!

After operating the mill a few years Mr. Bradstreet started clearing a farm on the north side of the stream and built a large frame house somewhere near where the Customs House now stands. This house is worthy of comment. It was a large frame structure—for those days—and had a large double stone chimney in the center, with a fireplace on three sides. One of the fireplaces was in the kitchen over which the

cooking was done, for at that time there were no stoves here. It had a large dining room and a parlor, with a fireplace in each room.

Years later this house was used only as a boardinghouse for the men who worked in the mill, often seating as many as twenty-five or thirty at a time. The pine table, built by Mr. Bradstreet, became a permanent part of the house; when the house changed ownership the table was left for the new owner. The house was eventually torn down and Mr. Cyrus Snow purchased the table for two dollars. Many of the pine boards used in the construction of the house were two feet in width, which will give one some idea of the size of the trees, which must have been over one hundred years old. Quite a contrast to the trees found in the woods today.

Mr. Bradstreet then commenced clearing another farm on the west side of the stream and built another house, the one known as the Farley house, which is supposed to be the oldest house in town today. He kept the mill until 1838 when he sold it to Harvey and Trask who came from Woodstock, N. B.

There is an old saying that goes: "Into each life some rain must fall," and so it did in the life of Mr. Bradstreet. In October 1847 the wife of Joseph Bradstreet died, leaving a family of children, Joseph was Nathaniel's oldest son. Joseph later married Esther Green of the Province. On November 18, 1848, his son John was crossing the pond on the ice, as there was no bridge at that time. The ice was thin and he broke through and was drowned. He was thirty-five years old. He left a wife, Mary Cronkite. A few years later Nathaniel Jr. died.

Mr. Bradstreet had eight children: Joseph, John, and Nathaniel Jr., mentioned above; Margy married to Asa Harvey; Sabra married to Sam Harvey, who was drowned at Aroostook Falls; Diana married to Sumner Whitney; Hannah married to Jedidiah Cronkite of the "Cronk" settlement; and Ferdinand, the youngest.

In 1858 Mr. Bradstreet sold his farm to Nathaniel Farley, and he and his wife went to live with their daughter Diana B. Whitney in Presque Isle where they spent their remaining years.

There are still descendants of Mr. Bradstreet in the town today and in every generation there have been Nathaniels, Josephs, and Ferdinands.

1829

James Thorncraft

Mr. Thorncraft was the first to locate on the Chandler farm, now the farm of Thomas Cook. After a few years he sold to Cyrus Chandler

and went to Westfield, the first man to settle in that town on what is now known as the Trueworthy place.

1830

John Young

John Young came from Canada about 1830 and started a clearing on the East Blaine Road about a mile from the "Line." The stream known today as Young Brook crossed his farm. He lived here until 1846, then moved to Mars Hill about three miles out on the Presque Isle Road where another stream crossed his property.

Today, over one hundred years later, two streams, in two towns, still bear the name Young Brook, forgotten tribute to that early settler.

1831

Joseph Ketchum

Joseph Ketchum was born in St. John, N. B., September 16, 1799. He traced his ancestry traditionally back to the Vikings of the eleventh century who settled in Northern France where they tended their nets, built their boats, and raised their families.

They were pagans, and though some of these early settlers readily accepted the Christian religion, many retained their old gods and traditions, even in strange lands.

Sometime about the early part of the seventeenth century, André Kechun, a descendant of these Viking ancestors, accompanied an expedition to Nova Scotia, settling near Port Royal. After the death of André, four of his sons came to the continent. The name had been changed to Ketchum.

Carlos Ketchum drifted to St. John, N. B., Pierre Ketchum reached New Amsterdam, New York, Jean accompanied friendly Indians westward, while William settled near what is now Hartford, Connecticut. These left many descendants in the land of their adoption.

It was through Carlos that Joseph traced his ancestry. His mother was the daughter of a sea captain, whose people for generations had been adherents of the English Church, and into this communion the Ketchums of St. John became early baptized.

Elizabeth Fay was born in St. John, N. B., October 25, 1800. She became the wife of Joseph Ketchum, June 3, 1819. Six children were

born to them while living in New Brunswick: Salome, born June 3, 1820; George Adolphus, born October 3, 1821; Mary, born August 21, 1823; Samuel, born October 16, 1825; Charlotte Ann, born February 1, 1828; Harriet, born March 11, 1830.

During the year of 1831 Joseph Ketchum moved to the State of Maine, settling in Bridgewater, engaging in the lumber business.

On May 24, 1832, James Ketchum was born, being the first child born of white parents in the township. John Ketchum was born July 4, 1834, Jarvis was born in 1840, and in 1842 Edward was born but died in infancy. About this time Joseph built the first hotel erected in that section, and where he was appointed the first postmaster of that town.

Elizabeth Ketchum died in Bridgewater, 1865; Joseph died August 9, 1876.

(The above information is copied verbatim from a very old paper now in the possession of Ellie Packard.)

When Joseph Ketchum came to Bridgewater he took a lot of land, the farm now owned by Ray Yerxa. The following spring he had cleared some land and sowed the first wheat in the town of Bridgewater.

After the "Bloodless Aroostook War," and the road had been grubbed through to Presque Isle, Mr. Ketchum bought another lot of land at the Corner, and in 1841 erected a hotel there. In 1845 he sold the first land to Nathaniel Rideout.

On February 18, 1849, he was appointed the first postmaster in the town, an office he held until May 12, 1854. His son James served as postmaster from December 27, 1856, to September 12, 1860.

When Joseph's son George died at the age of twenty-six, Joseph gave an acre of land for a cemetery.

Of all the ten children born to Joseph and Elizabeth there are only two descendants in town today bearing the name of Ketchum, Victor and his son.

There are some who claim that Ferdinand Bradstreet was the first white child born in Bridgewater; others that James Ketchum was. According to the Town Report of 1910, Ferdinand was seventy-nine when he died that year. That means he was born in 1831. According to the above record of the birth of James Ketchum, he was born May 24, 1832.

What difference does it make? It is how they lived that counts.

1835

Joshua B. Fulton

Joshua B. Fulton came here from Royalton, N. B., in 1835. His first farm was the one where Bernard Kingsbury now lives. Besides farming

he also did an extensive lumber business, but due to vicissitudes he lost his farm; so in 1840 he took up another farm on what is now the Houlton-Presque Isle Road.

At that time there was no road anywhere in the town, no neighbors nearer than twenty miles north or south. Soon, however, the state started building the road from Houlton to Presque Isle, for this was after the Boundary Dispute had been settled.

By swamping a road across a piece of land a man received his pay in land at \$1.50 per acre and a deed to it. In this way Mr. Fulton bought his farm. It was the first farm south of the Corner on both sides of the road.

Joshua married Salome Ketchum, daughter of Joseph Ketchum. They had six sons and two daughters. One son and a daughter died when very young. Those who grew up were Richard, Joseph, Joshua Jr., Charles, Ann, and John. At the time of the Civil War, Richard, Joseph, and Joshua volunteered for service in the Union Army and all gave their lives for their country.

At the time of the Gold Rush in California, Charles went there for a few years, then returned and bought a farm on the Corner Road east of his father's. In 1889 he bought the hotel at the Corner from James Kidder which he operated along with his farm until it was burned at the time of the Corner Fire in 1894. After that he gave his entire time to farming. He later sold his farm and bought the hotel at the Center (see hotels) which he operated a few years and then retired. He bought the house now owned by John Hoyt.

Charles married Mary Briggs of Littleton. In their family were three daughters, Elizabeth (known as Beth), Salome, and Deane. Charles spent his last years with his daughter in Houlton, where he died at the age of eighty-six.

John, the youngest son of Joshua, farmed with his father and worked in the woods winters. He married Nellie Hansel. To them were born three children, Mary, who died when young, Elmer, and Hazel.

In 1890 John moved to Gardiner, Maine, where he was a millwright. After a few years he returned to Bridgewater and resumed farming until old age prevented further work. His son Elmer then took over the management of the farm. Elmer sold the farm to the John Edmunds Co., but his father had a life lease of the house.

Sometime in the thirties the buildings burned, and John went to live in the home of Mrs. Mary Carmichael. He died at the age of eighty-seven. His wife had died several years before.

Ann, the only girl of Joshua, went to California when she was a

young girl. She married and spent the greater part of her life there. When she was about seventy-five years old she returned to Bridgewater and kept house for her brother John after the death of his wife. Ann's last years were spent in a wheel chair. She lived at the home of Mrs. James Dyer, who tenderly cared for her. Her hands were not idle, for she spent the days in knitting and crocheting, and at the age of ninety she made several patchwork quilts which she sold. She had a keen mind and a sense of humor, and many were the stories she told of the early days here, and of her life in California. She died at the age of ninety-nine.

1838

Harvey and Trask

Henry Harvey and his son-in-law, Mr. Trask, came here from Woodstock, N. B. They bought the mill and farm of Nathaniel Bradstreet, which they operated for several years.

Henry Harvey had other interests besides the sawmill: farming, buying and selling horses, running a small store—probably the first in the town—and any other business that he could turn into a dollar. Mr. Trask kept the sawmill going, supplying the new settlers with lumber.

About 1842 they sold the mill and farm to the Moulton Brothers, but reserved fifteen acres and the boardinghouse (somewhere near the present Customs House).

In 1849 Mr. Harvey was bitten by the Gold Rush bug and went to California to seek his fortune, leaving his wife to run the boardinghouse, which she did for several years.

Finally his family—those that were not married—joined him in California. Whether he found gold there, is not known.

The Trasks may have gone to California with Mrs. Harvey, as there are none in town at the present time.

1840

Orin and Dennis Nelson

In 1840 Orin and Dennis Nelson came here from Palermo, Maine. Orin took up the farm south of Joshua Fulton's. He cleared a fine farm and raised several sons and one daughter. His wife was Lucie Parkhurst.

Mr. Nelson farmed until his death in 1880 when his sons, Frank and Allen, took over the management.

The daughter, Lydia, married Col. Garfield of Lynn, Massachusetts. She returned home before her mother's death in 1900 and remained here to keep house for her brothers, Frank and Allen, who never married.

Allen was an ardent fisherman. He knew where every pool was on all the streams for miles around; he must have had a magic rod and hook for he never came home empty handed.

After Frank and Allen's deaths, Mrs. Garfield sold the farm to Thomas Huntington around 1915; in 1920 he sold it to Roland Kingsbury and Mrs. Kingsbury and her son Donald live there today.

George, the youngest son of Orin, bought forty acres from his father, on the west side of the road and adjoining the Fulton farm. He was married to Lottie Jamison. They had one son, Howard, who went to Waterville when he was a young man. Lottie died when Howard was a small boy. George married again, this time Delia Cronkite. After Delia's death George sold the farm to Thomas Huntington and went to Waterville to live with Howard.

Dennis Nelson had the farm now owned by Chester Sargent, but after clearing a small part he sold it to Josiah Bradstreet and his heirs, Charles and Ebben, and returned to the southern part of the state.

1840

Sumner Whitney

That same year saw another arrival. Sumner Whitney came from Phillips, Maine, and built the first hotel near the stream. The stream at that time had no name, so it was naturally called the Whitney Stream, a name it still bears today. No one in town today seems to know where this hotel was located. Possibly it may be the building that is the home of Ray Jamison. Mr. Whitney married Diana Bradstreet, daughter of Nathaniel Bradstreet.

As the hotel business was not very prosperous then, he stayed only a few years and then moved to Presque Isle where he bought a large tract of land and cleared a large farm. He also built a hotel there. It is interesting to note that much of the city of Presque Isle is built on what was his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradstreet spent their last years with their daughter, Mrs. Whitney.

1842

Moulton Brothers

The Moulton Brothers, Ephraim and Jesse, came from Bangor. They were well-educated and ambitious young men and apparently had financial backing, for they bought the farm and mill of Harvey and Trask. They immediately built an addition on the old mill and added new machinery. Since there was an abundance of pine, spruce, and tamerack the mill was kept running at top speed (see sawmills).

The Moultons also carried on the farm, and in the summer when the water was too low to operate the mill, the millmen took scythes and mowed the hay around the stumps in the newly cleared fields.

In 1849 Ephraim Moulton sold his share of the mill to Jesse and started for the Gold Fields of California, but died on the way. Jesse continued lumbering until the supply began to get scarce, when he sold out to Mr. John D. Baird in 1852.

1842

Samuel Kidder

Samuel Kidder was born in Albion, Maine, but came to the "Line" from the Nashwaak, N. B., about 1842. He took up the third lot of land from the mill, now owned by Fred Cook, which he cleared into a fine farm.

Mr. Kidder was a very friendly man, as ready to greet a barefoot boy as the best-dressed gentleman. Samuel was better known as "Squire Kidder."

His daughter, Lottie, taught school at the "Line" and it is told that she often saw and heard wolves in the Rideout Swamp (now Yerxa farm) on her way to and from school. She married Bedford Hume in 1861.

James H., son of Samuel, ran the hotel at the Corner and later became Registrar of Deeds on Houlton.

Samuel died in 1864.

1844

Cyrus Chandler

Cyrus Chandler came here from Winthrop, Maine, and bought the Thorncraft land, the second lot from the mill (Thomas Cook farm to-

day). He enlarged and improved the buildings and cleared more land.

Mr. Chandler had several daughters and one son, Albert L. The girls left town after they grew up but Albert, better known as Al., always lived here.

Cyrus Chandler died in 1888 leaving his property to his son. Albert acquired considerable property. One piece of over two hundred acres, which he bought from G. W. Collins, was the second lot from the main road on the Boundary Road. He cleared this farm and built a large barn on the flat land halfway up the hill. This farm extended to the top of the hill and for years was called "Chandler Hill." Many were the moonlight sliding parties that occurred on this hill. It was a long slow climb to the top, dragging sleds and toboggans, but a short swift ride to the bottom.

Albert was also engaged in lumbering as well as farming. At one time he was Deputy Collector of Customs at the "Line," and in the nineties was Justice of the Peace in town. He never married.

After his death the property passed through many hands and today is owned by Thomas Cook. In 1910 C. Edgar Lawrence bought the farm at the Center which is now owned by Charles Simonson.

1844

Jonathan Loudon

This year saw another new arrival, Jonathan Loudon (later commonly called London), who came from New Brunswick and settled on a lot of land on Bunker Hill—probably the first settler in this part of town. He did some farming, but he was a blacksmith by trade. Later he built a blacksmith shop where Guard Weeks' store is now located.

In 1903 the farm was bought by Bert C. Slipp. Mrs. Slipp and her son Garth still live on the farm.

1844

Thomas Kennedy

Another arrival this year was Thomas Kennedy, who settled somewhere in the Portland Academy Grant, but nothing more seems to be known about him.

John Burns, who was born in Scotland, came to Frederickton, N. B., when he was a young man. He was married to Mary Hodges and went to Nova Scotia to live for a few years. In 1844 he came to Bridgewater.

His first home was a log cabin located at the top of the hill on the main road directly opposite the Snow Road. He then moved to the Snow Road on the land that today is the Harry Simonson farm.

This part of the town was then all forest and Mr. Burns was the first settler in this part of town. He later took up a lot of land where Bert Nelson now lives. He cleared the land and made a comfortable home.

In 1866 the home was destroyed by fire. Visiting in the home at the time was a girl by the name of Webber. In trying to rescue her from the blazing house, both Mr. Burns and she lost their lives.

Robert, the son, then took over the management of the farm. It is owned today by John Burns' granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Nelson.

John Burns' children were Robert, Fred, Charles, and Sadie (Duffey). She was over ninety years of age, when she died in 1952.

Robert's family were: Cora (Lenfest), Lulu (Sanburn), Frances (Stitham), Maude (Nelson), and Guy. Only Mrs. Nelson and Guy live in town today.

Fred, son of John, married Annabelle Pamphry. Their children were: Fred Jr., Hazel (Clark); Gertrude (Rideout); and Clifford, who never married. Only Fred is living in town summers.

Charles, son of John, married Hattie Bradbury. Their children were: Flora, Jennie (Bradstreet), Helen (Parks), Donnie (Parks), Mildred, Alta, Gladys, Grover, and Russell.

Charles Kidder, brother of Samuel, came from Albion, Maine. The first year he was here he worked on the farm of Cyrus Chandler. The next year the Moultons opened a store at the "Line" and Charles became their clerk, a position he held for five years. He then went to

work for C. F. A. Johnson at the Corner. No information could be obtained about his family.

Both Samuel and Charles became prominent citizens in the town.

1845

Nathaniel Rideout

Nathaniel Rideout came from New Brunswick. The story is told that he said the Lord directed him to settle on the American side of the boundary. Nathaniel bought the farm of Joseph Ketchum. He did some farming, but he was a blacksmith by trade and most of his living came from his forge and anvil.

He had a family of eighteen children, most of them girls. Some of the boys were Nicholas, Thomas, Oliver, John, and Henry.

Having a family of eighteen children soon meant many in-laws and grandchildren, so after a few years was started the annual picnic of the Rideout family. Gradually others began to attend these picnics until nearly everyone in town was there. As is always the case, as the family began to scatter and fewer Rideouts attended the picnic it gradually passed out of existence in the 1890's.

Of all those eighteen children only two in town today bear the Rideout name, Fred and his son Ralph.

1845

David Foster

David Foster came from Kennebec County and took up the first lot of land on the north in the Portland Academy Grant. This lot was on the east side of the road. He built a set of buildings and cleared some of the land, then in 1852 sold it to Joseph C. Smith.

1845

Absolem McNinch

Absolem McNinch came from Greenfield, Canada. At first he lived on the Corner Road on the flat east of where the railroad now runs;

later he lived on the Blaine Road near the lake. He worked for Cyrus Chandler and Bedford Hume.

Absolem had three sons — Richard, Wesley, and William — and several daughters. When the Civil War started, Richard was too young to enlist; but being eager to go, he calmly added a few years to his age and was accepted.

Richard, Wesley, and William all married and had large families, mostly boys.

The only ones living in town today are Raymond and Harvey, sons of Richard, and Mrs. Eliza Barker, daughter of Richard; Roy and Harrison, sons of Wesley; and Edward and Harold, sons of William.

Richard was the last Civil War veteran in the town for many years. He died in May 1922 at the age of seventy-five years and eleven months, and was buried with full military honors.

1848

Boundary Bridge

The first bridge at the "Line" was built in the year 1848 (see bridges).

1848

Lewis Kingsbury

Lewis Kingsbury came to the Boundary from Canada with his wife. He had four sons and one daughter: Albert, Lewis II, Adolphus, James, and Lavina.

Albert married Sarah Jamison, daughter of Robert Jamison. Their children were Robert, Roland, Lavina, Lewis III, Bedford, and Sandy.

Lewis II married Harriet Jamison, daughter of Robert Jamison, and moved to Mars Hill.

Lavina, daughter of Lewis I, married Nathaniel Beem and lived in Blaine. James never married.

Adolphus married Miss Mills from Robinsons. They had eight children, only two of them living in town today, Earl and Scholey.

Now let's go back to Albert's children. Robert married Sadie Huntington, Roland married Minona Kinney; Bedford, after Roland's death, married his widow, Minona Kingsbury. Lavina, Lewis III, and Sandy live in nearby towns. Robert's and Roland's children live in town.

1850

William Pennington

William Pennington came here from Canada. His father was born in England and came, when a young man, to Canada to seek his fortune. William was a minister, and since the only church in town at that time was at the Boundary, no doubt that is where he preached. He organized the church at Bunker Hill in 1865 and was the first preacher.

He was married and had several children when he came here.

Land was cheap at that time and, through his wife's father, he was able to acquire a great deal of wild land, chiefly in the Portland Academy Grant. He did not stay in town many years, but moved to Houlton where he and his brother James went into the lumber business and farming. They also had a general store.

The only one of William's children who remained in town was George L. Pennington. He went into the real estate business, selling much of his father's land to new settlers. He was a great lover of horses and kept many nice ones. He also imported western horses to sell to farmers, not only in town but throughout Aroostook. He died in 1911 at the age of 69.

His son, James Pennington, lives in town today. He has two daughters—Mabel (Mrs. Guy Twitchell) and Etta (Mrs. Frank Bradstreet)—now living in Oregon. One son, Sam, lives with his father.

1850

Samuel Tompkins

Samuel Tompkins came from Florenceville, N. B. He took a lot of wild land on the east side of the Prestile Stream opposite the Rideout farm (now owned by Robert Alexander). He cleared a farm and worked it diligently. He also was a good shoemaker; he needed to be, for he had seven children to keep in shoes.

He married Sally Rideout, daughter of Nathaniel Rideout. They had five sons and two daughters. Nathaniel will be mentioned in a later chapter, and Isaiah, whose son Benjamin still lives in Robinson.

Samuel worked diligently soliciting funds to help build the church at the "Line." Years later he moved to Robinson where his descendants still live.

C. F. A. Johnson started in the business of buying and selling shingles, buying first from the Moulton Brothers and later from John D. Baird. He used a room in the house of Joseph Ketchum as his office.

Mr. Johnson then built a little store at the Corner in which he did a good business. He also carried on a large lumber business. His clerk was Charles Kidder who remained with him during Johnson's six years in town.

In 1854 Mr. Johnson brought his bride to town; they stayed at the boarding house at the "Line" while he drove to and from his business each morning and night.

In 1856 he moved to Presque Isle and eventually formed a partnership with Thomas H. Phair in the starch business, known as Johnson and Phair. At one time this was the largest starch manufacturing company in the United States.

In the late eighteen hundreds he severed all business associations and moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and later to Riverside, California, where he bought an orange grove. He lived there the remainder of his life.

John Ackerson came here from Sheffield, N. B. He bought and cleared a farm of 160 acres on the Main Road, the third lot south of the Corner.

He was married to Hannah Noble; they had twelve children. Three boys and a girl died in childhood. The others were Joseph, John Jr., Harding, Doris, George, Charles, Susan, and Hannah. Joseph went to Mars Hill to live; Hannah married George Williams and lived in town; George and Susan returned to Canada to live.

When John Sr. died in 1859 his son, Harding, took over the upper half of the farm while John Jr. had the southern half.

Harding married Angelina Williams. They had ten daughters, namely: Bernice, Mrs. James Harding; Sadie, Mrs. James Ketchum; Etta, Mrs. E. P. Silby; Alda, Mrs. Roy Briggs; Susan, Mrs. Ernest Tupper; Ila, Mrs. G. A. Young; Helen, Mrs. Bert Ackerson.

Della and Mary never married; Lottie died at the age of nine years. Helen is the only one living in town today.

John Jr. sold his part of the farm to Martin S. Rideout in October 1889 and moved away. This farm and the Harding Ackerson farm are today owned by Dan Bradstreet.

Doris, son of John Sr., bought a lot of land on Line road (first farm north of the Sam Hartley farm) which he kept a few years. During the time he had it he worked very hard clearing it, then sold it and bought a farm owned by Richard Kimball. This was the last farm in the southern part of town.

Doris married Margaret Williams. They had one daughter, Elva, who married George Williams. She operated the farm after her parents' deaths until her daughter Pansy married. Today Pansy and her husband, Robert Harding, still live on this farm.

Charles, the youngest son of John Sr., bought a farm on the road that runs from the Snow Road to the Boundary, just north of his brother Doris. He cleared a nice farm and built a fine set of buildings. He married Eldora Farley, daughter of Enoch Farley; they had one son, Bert.

In 1905 when the Rural Free Delivery route was established Charles Ackerson became the carrier, a position he held until August 1926 when failing health forced him to give up the position.

From 1905 to 1919 Charles was assisted on the farm by his son Bert. In 1919 Charles left the farm and built a home in town. He died in November 1926.

Mr. and Mrs. Ackerson were members of the Grange. He served as Worthy Master several times. He was a charter member of the Bridge-water I.O.O.F. Central Lodge No. 134 and was one of the first Noble Grands. They were members of the Crescent Rebekah Lodge and members of the United Baptist Church. In all of these organizations they were faithful members and willing workers.

Bert carried on the farm until 1927 when he sold it to Thomas Phair. It is today owned by Glen Cook. Bert then moved to town and lives in the house built by his father. He is the janitor of the schools, keeping them immaculately clean, carrying out his duties with the same faithfulness that was characteristic of his father.

1851

John D. Baird

A man who proved to be an outstanding citizen came to town this year. John D. Baird came from Woodstock, N. B., and settled at the

Boundary Line which was the largest settlement in the town at that time. He was a young man with a good education, a keen intellect, and high ambitions. He had financial backing from the people in St. John, N. B., so he bought the mill from Jesse Moulton in 1852 and immediately started to remodel and enlarge it. He put in a new dam. Then in 1853 he went to Calais and hired Johnathan Dow and his three sons to operate the mill.

Mr. Baird sawed a great deal of lumber which was floated down the St. John River to the city of St. John; from there it was shipped to English markets.

In 1856 Mr. Baird built a gristmill which proved to be a great help to the whole countryside, for now the grain that was raised in the town could be ground near home, where formerly it had to be taken to Canada. The gristmill was kept running all the fall and winter grinding wheat and buckwheat.

When Mr. Baird bought the mill he also bought the Moulton store and the fifteen acres that they had obtained from Mrs. Harvey. He had as his clerk Bedford Hume, who came here in 1853. Mr. Hume not only managed the store but kept the lumber accounts. He worked for Mr. Baird seven years.

About this time the price of lumber declined to such an extent in the English markets that it scarcely paid to saw it, so Mr. Baird entered into a business venture in Florenceville, N. B., which was such a failure as to hamper his business for several years. What this venture was is not known today. He did continue lumbering in a small way for many years.

Some time in the seventies he bought a block of wild land in the eastern part of the township. He made a few clearings on the land and sold it to new settlers. Some of this land is now the farms of Jacob Morse, the Bradstreets, and many of those in the neighborhood of Victor Ketchum's. In 1872 he sold the store to John Pryor who came here from Canada. Mr. Baird was never married. He spent his last years in Woodstock. For a number of years this part of the town was called Baird's Mills.

1851

The Allen Family

In 1851 Thomas Allen came here from Keswick, N. B., and lived on Bunker Hill for several years. Then his son, George W. Allen,

bought land in the southern part of town and cleared a farm. His father lived with him until his death. The buildings were destroyed by fire but were soon rebuilt. George had one son, Guy E., who continued the work after George's death in 1905.

Guy bought another farm on the opposite side of the road and made many improvements in both farms and buildings. Guy married Belle Kimball, daughter of George Kimball; they had two sons and two daughters. Guy died in 1923 leaving Mrs. Allen to carry on the farm until her sons were old enough to manage it. The sons are now married and carrying on. Their children make the fourth generation on the same farm.

1852

Eunice Atherton

A family came here from Richmond, N. B., by the name of Atherton. They bought the second farm from the Corner on the south side of the road. There is no other information about this family except that Mrs. Eunice Atherton paid taxes in 1862 and that Fred Atherton lived on the farm. Whether he was her husband or son is not known. Later she sold the farm to Charles Smith. This farm is now owned by Bernard Smith, no relation to Charles Smith.

1852

Kimball Family

The Kimball history goes back to England. The name Kimball means "Keeper of the Bells," and that is just what they did. It was both a title and a job. It was their duty to ring the bells for all items of news, for celebrations and proclamations of the King, a responsibility which they faithfully performed.

Wishing to have religious freedom—for the Kimballs were Puritans—they left England and came to Ipswich, Massachusetts, on the second trip of the Mayflower.

Feeling ran high in Massachusetts against the Loyalists preceding the Revolutionary War, and so Richard, who was a Loyalist, left Massachusetts in 1762. He was given a grant of land (as were other Loyalists at that time) in Marysville, N. B. Later the Kimballs had a ship-

building business on the Oromocto River where they built many ships.

When Richard Sr.'s son grew up he, Richard Jr., was given his choice of a farm or a store, by his father. Richard decided in favor of a farm, which he bought in Florenceville, N. B., a farm of four hundred acres.

Richard Jr. married Frances Kenney and to them were born eleven children. As the children grew up, the boys wished to come to Maine, as a cousin had settled in Fort Fairfield and told of the wonderful farm lands there, but the Kimballs decided on Bridgewater, as it was nearer to their relatives in Canada; so in 1852 Richard Jr., with his wife, nine living children, several hives of Black German bees, his wife's old pine cupboard and brass candlesticks (all of which are in the family today), moved to a farm on the Corner Road, known today as the Black farm and owned by Wendell Pierce.

As there has been a Richard in nearly every generation, from now on they will be numbered 1-2-3, etc., starting with Richard Jr., the first to settle in the town.

Richard 1st quickly became a citizen of the United States. He cast his first presidential vote for the Democratic candidate, General McClellan.

Richard 1st children were Absolem, Hiram, Israel, George, Harriet, Hulda, Elizabeth (Betsy), Rachel, and Ann. Harriet married Oliver Rideout; Betsy married Enoch Farley; Rachel married Jason Russell; Hulda married Smith; and Anne married Kinney.

When Absolem, oldest son of Richard 1st, became of age he bought the farm east of his father's on the Corner Road. He was a very diligent worker, cutting trees and clearing land. In the winter he cut wood for his stoves. He was considered a very strong man; it is said that he could lift a load of grain by the rear axle of a wagon. Probably he expended his strength unwisely, for he died at the age of forty-seven.

Absolem married Ruth Boyer of Florenceville, N. B. Their children were John, Richard (2nd), Frank, and Ida, who married Lewis McKeen.

Hiram, son of Richard 1st, never married.

Israel, son of Richard 1st, married but had no children.

George, son of Richard 1st, married Frances Boyer of Florenceville, N. B. About 1865 he bought the farm of his brother-in-law, Jason Russell, on Bunker Hill. At that time his twin sons, Hiram and Israel, were six years old. The boys were very angry and homesick over the move, and finding a picture of Abraham Lincoln hanging on the wall of their new home, they thought it was the picture of their Uncle Jason, so they took knives and cut the picture to ribbons. The farm had one

hundred acres, only twenty of it cleared, so George and his sons spent their lives clearing a fine farm.

Shortly after George bought the farm there was talk of building a starch factory in town and each farmer was asked to raise a quota of potatoes. George raised three acres, mostly around the stumps of the newly cleared land.

As the men were busy working on the farm, George's wife, Frances, better known as Fanny, took over the care of the bees. She was known as "Aunt Fanny, the Bee Woman."

The honey was a welcome relief from molasses, as white sugar was used only on special occasions, and sugar doughnuts were only made at Christmas time. The honey was used to sweeten preserves and in cooking. It was also a source of income, as Aunt Fanny sold it for ten cents a pound or traded it with peddlers for calico, thread, and other things.

Now let's go back and trace the next generation.

John, son of Asolem, married Elizabeth Lawrence, daughter of William Lawrence. He moved to the farm that had been owned by William Lawrence. John's children were Absolem 2nd and Fred. Absolem 2nd went to Massachusetts to live when he was a young man. Fred and his father operated the farm. Fred married Sarah Boyer of Florenceville, N. B. Fred's son, John 2nd, lives on the farm today. John 2nd married Hilda Agnew of Centerville, N. B. John 2nd is the only descendant in town today bearing the Kimball name. This is a fourth-generation farm, John 1st, Fred, John 2nd, and John's daughter Edith.

Frank, son of Absolem, married Myrtle Rideout, daughter of Oliver Rideout. He worked in the tannery until it closed; then he worked for the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Co. He also bought a small farm on the West Road, the first farm on the south side west of the village. This farm is today owned by Charles Simonson.

After Frank's death his widow and son, Verne, moved to Houlton.

Richard 2nd, son of Absolem, bought the last farm in Bridgewater on the south from George Stewart in 1880, then sold it to Doris Ackerson. It is today owned by Robert Harding.

Richard 2nd crossed the continent three times selling books and maps. In 1900 he bought Henry Bradstreet's store (see stores) which he operated until he retired in 1916. He was called "Uncle Dick" by nearly everyone in town.

Richard 2nd was on the Board of Health from 1909 to 1914 and was Town Clerk from 1909 to 1924. He was married to Frances Rideout,

sister of Myrtle, and daughter of Oliver Rideout. They had two sons, Earl and Richard 3rd. Both boys served in World War I and saw action in the Argonne Sector. Richard 2nd and Frances were faithful members of the United Baptist Church.

Now let us go back to George's family. He had five children: Hiram and Israel, who were twins; Mary, who married George Capen; Belle, who married Guy Allen; and Edgar, who died when a small boy.

Israel never married but always lived with his twin, Hiram. Hiram married Millie Orser. After her death he married Camilla Kimball of Canada. Hiram and Israel lived on the farm that their father had bought, and cared for their parents.

When "Aunt Fanny the Bee Woman" died, the bees were "told" and properly draped. There is an old story that if the bees are not told and draped they will either go away or, if they stay, will stop gathering honey and die. After Fanny's death the bees were cared for by Camilla, and those bees are still swarming each spring, still making honey each summer, and still stinging those who disturb them—those bees who originally were brought here over one hundred years ago. They are still cared for by Camilla. Some years there were as many as forty hives and some years as few as three. One time they made over a thousand pounds of honey in a season.

Hiram's children were Beth, Mont, and George Jr. Mont and George Jr. have moved away from town, Bethe Kimball Stone is the present Postmistress.

George's farm is today owned by Kenneth Parks.

John Kimball 2nd has in his possession an old handmade cane bearing two sets of initials and one date. The initials are R.J.K., and in another place are F.A.K. June 11, 1881. The cane is probably over seventy-five years old. He also has a bootjack which is a piece of crotched wood, worn smooth with much use, with a hole on one end by which it was fastened to the floor.

Seven of the children of Richard Kimball 1st had families. Now there are only eight descendants living in town today. Bethe K. M. Stone and son Lloyd; Gordon and Claire Allen, sons of Belle Kimball Allen, and grandsons of George; Bert Ackerson, grandson of Betsy Kimball Farley; John Kimball 2nd, grandson of John 1st, and his daughter Edith; and Wayne Allen, son of Clair Allen.

Edith Kimball is the sixth generation. Let's trace it down and see: Richard 1st; his son, Absolem; his son, John 1st; his son, Fred; his son, John 2nd; and his daughter, Edith.

Bedford Hume came here from Woodstock, N. B. He clerked in the store of John D. Baird about seven years, then in 1860 bought the Nathaniel Rideout farm. Here he started farming and trading, buying and shipping shingles.

He married Lottie Kidder, daughter of Samuel Kidder, in 1861. Mr. Hume had just got out lumber to build a barn when he heard of a fire in Alva Plantation, now the town of Blaine. Being an enterprising man with an eye for new business he at once got several teams of oxen and had the lumber hauled to Alva. Here he built a store on the east side of the road and lived across the road on the lot where the I.G.A. store now stands.

A year later, 1866, he returned to Bridgewater and bought the G. W. Collins store at the Corner which he ran until his death in 1889.

During this time he was also engaged in the lumber business and starch making with G. W. Collins, having factories at Mars Hill and at Clark Brook in Presque Isle.

The Humes had three children: Helen, born in Alva; Frank M. and Guy both born in Bridgewater.

Frank was commissioned Colonel on July 16, 1910 (see page 92).

Joseph C. Smith and his brother Samuel came from Oromocto, N. B. They started lumbering operations and while lumbering, Samuel was drowned. Joseph then turned to farming. He bought the David Foster farm, the first farm on the north side of the Snow Road.

Joseph was married and had a family when he came here. There were four sons: Charles, Orlo, Ezekel, and Joseph Jr.

Charles bought the Atherton farm at the Corner, the second farm from the main road and on the south side of the Corner Road (now owned by Bernard Smith). Charles later bought an eighty-acre woodlot from Absolem Kimball.

Orlo bought the farm east of his father's, second farm on the Snow Road. This farm is now owned by Robert Simonson.

Joseph Jr., or 2nd, and Ezekel bought a tract of wild land and paid for it by making shaved shingles. This land was across the road from the present Smith farm. After a time they traded this farm with Alfred

Nickerson of Houlton. Ezekel went to Houlton to live and Joseph 2nd returned to his father's farm.

Joseph 2nd then bought the farm on the south side of the Snow Road and erected a fine set of buildings. He later bought the land across the Main Road and in 1868 he bought the Thomas Durgin farm which adjoined his on the south.

Joseph 2nd married a lady from Houlton. To them were born two sons and four daughters. One son, Joseph 3rd, lives on the farm today.

Charles, son of Joseph 1st, married Mary Teague of Caribou. They had four children: Altam and Eveline, Charles Jr. and Malcolm. Altam married Joseph 3rd, Charles Jr. died in 1895, Malcolm lives in Presque Isle, and Eveline lives in California.

Joseph 2nd gave a lot of land for a cemetery on the corner of his farm at the top of the hill. He also gave land for a church just south of the cemetery. Through his untiring efforts a church was erected about 1866; it was later moved to the Center (see churches).

Joseph 2nd and 3rd kept many cows and operated a cheese factory for many years. Later, Joseph 3rd discontinued the cheese making and carried on a dairy business. This was in the days before automobiles and the milk was delivered all over town with a team. When Joseph's son, J. Donald, was old enough to drive the wagon he would start out before school, deliver the milk, then start toward home. When he got to the little school building he would get out of the wagon, throw the reins over the whip and start the horse. J. Donald would then go to school and the horse, having been over the route so many times, needed no guidance on his homeward trip. When a team was met the horse turned out, then back into the road and on home, which he always reached safely.

Joseph 3rd has three sons: Joseph Donald, Charles, and Alton. J. Donald lives in Connecticut, Charles is engaged in the hatchery business, while Alton and his father carry on the farm. Joseph and his wife live in a beautiful home (the old one was destroyed by fire about twenty-five years ago). They are both interested in church work, are very keen, and enjoy life as they travel down the Sunset Road.

This is a four-generation family on the same farm: Joseph 2nd, Joseph 3rd, Charles and his family.

1854

George Green

This year saw several newcomers to town: George Green, Frederick Whited, George T. Freeman, and Joseph Sargent.

George Green came from Jacksonville, N. B., and built a tannery and shoe shop at the "Line" across the road from the present Customs House. He employed several men in making shoes and harnesses, both of which were made by hand. Some put the pegs in the soles of cowhide boots, some drew the waxed threads through the uppers. Cowhide was the leather used for shoes, and although they were not beautiful, they were serviceable, and that is what the people wanted. One pair of those shoes would outwear half a dozen pairs today.

The shop was the gathering place for the men, for Mr. Green was a very sociable man and a good talker. Many were the discussions on religion, politics, and the differences between the North and the South, for these were troublesome times preceding the Civil War.

If a timid maiden entered, the talk suddenly ceased and she became a target for all the eyes, as she shyly approached one of the men to have her foot measured for a pair of shoes, and demurely asked if they would be finished by Saturday night so she could wear them to Meeting on Sunday.

Mr. Green was here a number of years, then seems to have drifted on, as there are no other accounts of him.

1854

George T. Freeman

The Freemans, George and Charles, came this year from Canada. George was a very smart businessman. He had a store across the road from the Green shoe shop where he did a thriving business. He also did a great deal of farming, having at one time four farms. In the winters he supplied the lumber camps with groceries, sides of beef, hay and grain.

He married Hannah Cronkite from Canada in 1866. To them were born two daughters: Hattie, who married William Whited, and Georgie, who first married Joshua Pryor and, after his death, Henry Randall.

About 1901 George sold his property at the "Line" and went to California for a few months. Then he returned and in 1902 built a large store at the Center with living quarters upstairs. He operated the store until his death in 1904; his wife had died in 1901, before he went to California. This store was the first one in town to have plate-glass windows.

Mr. Freeman was an honest man, extremely social and hospitable,

and must have been a fine man to work for, as many of the men stayed with him over twenty years.

Dr. W. W. White boarded in his home at the "Line" for twenty-seven years.

Almost the last thing that Mr. Freeman did was to give the Baptist Church at the Center the land where it now stands.

Charles Freeman was not as smart a businessman as George.

1854

Whited Family

The Whiteds came from England to Massachusetts many years ago, and from there to New Brunswick. The name was originally Whitehead, but somewhere down the years was shortened to Whited.

Frederick Whited was born in Keswick, N. B. When he was a young man he spent two years in Pennsylvania; then in 1854 he came to Bridgewater. The first two years he lived in the Gus Bradstreet house on the East Blaine Road.

He then bought a farm from Scott Roe at the Corner. He married Elizabeth Ann Esty and lived in a small house near where Perley Jamison now lives. Later he bought a farm east of the Corner where he built a large house.

When the Corner burned on May 11, 1894, the Whited buildings miraculously escaped the flames, but exactly twelve years later, May 11, 1906, the buildings were burned. It is believed that two of Frederick's grandsons were playing with matches in the barn.

There is still a large lilac bush near the road which was at the corner of the house and years ago the old cellar wall was still visible, and down over the hill is an old orchard that was part of the place.

Frederick had four children: William, Charles, Harry, and Anne. After the fire he moved to the farm in the north part of town, formerly owned by Ketchum. This farm contained 160 acres. When Frederick retired, his youngest son, Harry, took over the management of the farm. Harry added a wood lot which surrounded a lake, thus giving the name Whited Lake to the body of water.

Harry married Effie Shorey of Houlton; to them were born two sons, Ernest and Norman. After his wife's death Harry married a second time, to Emma Drawyer who bore him one son and three daughters: William Elizabeth, Effie and Nellie. William and Elizabeth are now dead; the others live in Houlton.

About 1918 Harry sold the farm to Edmunds Seed Co. of Boston, and in 1924 it was bought by Fred McBurnie, grandson of Frederick Whited. Fred McBurnie added another eighty acres to the farm, making a very large farm. It was while McBurnie had it that the farm came to be known as the "Bingo Farm." It is now owned by Woodbury Bearce of Washburn.

William, oldest son of Frederick, married Hattie Freeman, daughter of George Freeman. They had one adopted daughter, Margaret Tompkins Whited.

William bought the Nathaniel Rideout farm on the Corner Road, and later the Ed. McBurnie farm on the Snow Road. These farms are now owned by Margaret's husband, Ray Yerxa.

Charles, son of Frederick Whited, married Bessie Farley, daughter of Enoch Farley. Charles bought the Enoch Farley farm, and an additional sixty acres which he worked until his death in 1934. Charles and Bessie had two children, Fred and Hazel.

In 1919 Fred bought the Hamilton Farley farm from the heirs. He is married to Edith Stackpole, daughter of H. G. Stackpole. They lived for a few years in the Dr. White house which Fred owned, but after his father's death he changed houses with his mother and took over the management of his father's farm with his own. In 1943 he bought the George Styles farm, which was the farm of Nathaniel Farley Jr. Today Fred has the farms of Hamilton, Enoch, and Nathaniel Farley Jr.

Fred has served on the Board of Health and as one of the Selectmen for several years, besides holding other offices.

Annie, daughter of Frederick Whited, married William McBurnie. It was her son Fred who bought the Harry Whited farm.

1854

Sargent Family

Joseph W. Sargent came from Montville, Maine, in the fall of 1854. With him came his wife, Laura, and two small children: Edward, aged two and a half, and Emma, one year old. He built a log house on the place now owned by Robert Simonson. Here Arthur was born in 1855. Mr. Sargent then bought the place across the road. Here James W. was born in 1857, and Mary in 1861. While living here Mr. Sargent went to fight in the Civil War. When he returned he sold out and moved eastward on the now Snow Road, which at that time was only

a woods road as far as the present Earl Kingsbury place. Here Joseph Jr. and John were born in 1864 and 1866.

Joseph must have preferred the solitude of the deep forest, for again he penetrated farther into the woods, this time to what was to be the end of the road, and on the Canadian border. Here Percy was born, 1868. This farm was later the Durgin farm and today is owned by Carroll Sharp.

Having the urge to move again, but not wanting to live in Canada, he retraced his steps, this time to the clearing started by the Berry Brothers on the west side of the Snow and Boundary Road. This farm was later called the Buckley farm and is now owned by Sam Hartley. Here Howard was born in 1872.

After five years Joseph again retraced his steps, this time to the farm now owned by Jessica Sargent. This was, at last, to be his permanent home; here he lived until his death in 1894.

Joseph and Laura had nine children as listed above.

Edward married Sarah Robinson and lived on the so-called Buckley farm shortly after his father left it. Later he went to Massachusetts to live.

Emma married Nathaniel Tompkins, grandson of Nathaniel Rideout. Nathaniel Tompkins was killed by a falling tree when he was a young man. His son Nathaniel Jr. was born in Bridgewater, and became a lawyer in Houlton (see page 88).

Mary married Clarence Rideout, son of Oliver Rideout, and lived on the farm now owned by Byron Lawrence. After Clarence's death she married again and moved to Auburn.

Arthur and Joseph Jr. went to Massachusetts when young men.

John married Dany Cosman and lived for a few years on the farm now owned by Perry Carmichael. Later he operated the hotel (see hotels).

Howard married Eveline Quick and bought the farm originally owned by Dennis Nelson. His son, Chester, lives on the farm today, while Howard lives in town.

Percy married Jessica Buchanan. After his father's death the farm was left to his mother, Laura. Percy bought it from her and lived there until his death. Jessica still owns the farm, but her son, Percy Jr., lives here. Jessica is a nurse and spends most of her time caring for the sick; when not on duty she spends the time at home.

James Winfield, better known as "Winnie," lived with his brother Percy.

Descendants of Joseph living in town today are Howard, son, aged eighty-one; Percy Jr., son of Percy; Chester, son of Howard (these two

are grandsons of Joseph); Ronald, son of Chester and great-grandson of Joseph; and Ronald's sons who are great, great grandsons of Joseph. Edna, daughter of Howard. Ronald and Percy have daughters.

1856

Nathaniel Farley

Nathaniel Farley came here from Florenceville, N. B. He bought the Nathaniel Bradstreet farm on both sides of the Whitney Stream and moved into the house built by Mr. Bradstreet sometime between 1840 and 1850. This is the oldest frame house in town today, over one hundred years old, and known as the old Farley House.

He had three sons—Enoch, Hamilton, and Nathaniel Jr.—and three daughters—Matilda, Deborah and Sarah.

When Enoch reached manhood he bought the half of his father's farm south of Whitney Stream. He married Elizabeth Kimball, daughter of Richard Kimball. To them was born one daughter, Elnora. After Elizabeth's death, Enoch married Lydia Shirley of Burton, N. B. To this union were born two daughters, Bessie and a little girl who died when very young. Elnora married Charles Ackerson and Bessie married Charles Whited. Enoch sold his farm to his son-in-law, Charles Whited, about 1894 (see Whited family).

Hamilton took over his father's farm, which he operated for many years. He was married and had two sons, Clarence and Roy; probably there were daughters also. Clarence lived in the old home until his death a few years ago.

Nathaniel farmed some but spent his winters in the woods as a cook. He had a large family, one of them being James Howard, better known as "J.H. and Howard." The others have moved to other parts of the state.

J. Howard started in as storekeeper at the "Line" at the age of twenty (see stores). He married Annie Farley in 1896. To them were born four sons: Albert Chandler and J. Howard Jr. (Pete) of Bridgewater, and Harry and Burt of Connecticut.

Mr. Farley was a Republican and represented the towns of Mars Hill, Blaine, Monticello, and Bridgewater in the State Legislature for two terms from 1923 to 1926.

He was one of the organizers of the Bridgewater Electric Company and served as its president for several years. He was also one of the organizers of the Mars Hill Trust Company of Mars Hill.

J. Howard was a Seventh Day Adventist and was affiliated with the Adventist Church in Westfield. His fraternal affiliations were Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Royal and Select Masters, Knight Templars, Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and the Elks.

He was a very friendly man, and always had the keenest interest in his town. In later years he became an ardent fisherman and knew all of the pools where the speckled trout lurked. He died in September 1938.

Mrs. Farley spends her summers in town and winters in Connecticut. A. Chandler is a very successful agent for a Life Insurance Co.

1856

James E. Briggs

Another arrival this year was James E. Briggs, who came from Monticello. He married Sarah Farley, daughter of Nathaniel Farley Sr., and for a time they lived in her father's house.

In 1857 he bought a lot of one hundred acres of wild land, probably from John D. Baird, on the road between the Snow Road and the Boundary Line Road (now the Harvey place). He cleared this farm and built a good set of buildings, and here he raised eleven children.

James E. Briggs was a carpenter and mason by trade, and as his sons grew old enough to run the farm he left this work to them and worked more at his trade.

All of these sons left Bridgewater when they were young men and settled in nearby towns. Three of them served in the Maine State Legislature representing their towns: Enoch from Westfield, Albert from Monticello, and Wilmot from Littleton. Charles was a lawyer. After practicing in several Maine towns he finally went to California. Two daughters moved away, Nettie and Iva. Alfred died when a young man, and two died when children. Only two remain in town: Matilda, who married James Alexander; and Sarah or Sadie, who married Charles Ketchum, and after his death she married Clifford Sharp.

1857

Thomas Durgin

Three new families came to town this year: Thomas Durgin, Thomas and Edward Snow, and Jason Russell.

Thomas Durgin came from Hempstead, N. B. He bought the second farm south of the Snow Road, which he cleared and built a set of buildings. In 1867 he sold this farm to Joseph Smith. He then bought one hundred acres of wild land on the Snow Road, the farm that Joseph Sargent had at one time settled on, the last farm in the town on this road, adjoining the boundary on the east. There was only a small clearing and a log house on the place that had been built by Mr. Sargent.

Mr. Durgin cleared this land and made a fine farm and erected a very good set of buildings.

Thomas married Miss Van Wart, a sister of Gilbert Van Wart. They had one son, Isaac, and three daughters, Letitia (Mrs. John Slipp), Sheloah (Mrs. Elbridge Hartley), and Rose (Mrs. Wilmot Hartley).

As Thomas grew older, his son Isaac took over the farm, which he improved and enlarged.

Isaac bought, first, a hundred-acre woodlot on the south side of the road, part of which he cleared. He then bought the John Nelson farm of eighty acres and another woodlot adjoining it. He improved this property, then sold it to Joseph Milbury who later sold it to Charles Simonson.

Isaac served the town as Tax Collector and Selectman for several years. Besides managing his farm he sold fertilizers.

After the death of his parents he lived alone on the farm; then his cousin Moses Brundage came to keep house for him. His birthday was March 17 and every year on that date he held open house for all of his friends. It became an event to which both young and old looked forward. The women would take cakes and sandwiches while Isaac furnished coffee and cream. The evening was spent playing cards and games.

A pair of horses hitched to a sled which was filled with hay and plenty of robes to keep warm was the means of transportation, for that was in the days before automobiles were used in the winters. Several of these teams would leave town picking up people along the way. It was an evening long looked forward to and long talked of afterward.

In his later years he was cared for by his niece and her husband, Cassie (Hartley) and Earl Kingsbury, to whom he left his property. They later sold it to Carroll Sharp.

1857

Thomas and Edward Snow

Two other arrivals this year were Thomas and Edward Snow, who came from Waterville, N. B. They bought two lots of wild land from

Thomas Smith, which they cleared and on which they erected buildings. Edward's land was the corner farm on the north side of the Snow Road and the east side of the road leading to the Boundary. Thomas had the next farm on the east.

Edward sold his farm to Ziba Barker. It then changed hands several times. Thomas' property was sold by his heirs to Wilmot Hartley. Both these farms are today owned by Sam Hartley.

1857

Jason Russell

The third arrival this year was Jason Russell, who came from Athens, Maine. He bought a lot of wild land from Thomas Smith, part of which he cleared. He put up a set of buildings, then sold it to A. M. Stackpole in 1863 and moved to Bunker Hill.

Jason married Rachel Kimball, daughter of Richard Kimball 1st, and sister of Absolem and George.

In 1865 he sold his farm to his brother-in-law, George Kimball, and moved to Mars Hill. Jason's son Frank operated a hardware store in Blaine for many years.

Jason's farm is today owned by Kenneth Parks.

1857

David Packard

David Packard came from Monmouth. He worked for a time on the farm of Joseph Ketchum and later married his daughter, Mary.

In 1868 he bought a lot of wild land from John D. Baird on what is known today as the Packard Road and built a log house in which he, his sons, and grandson lived, but it was remodeled and improved many times.

David's children were Webster; Willard; and Isadore, who married George Barrett. Webster and Willard farmed the homestead together for years, then dissolved partnership. Willard lived where Max Packard does today, while Webster had the home farm.

Webster married Eva Rideout of Bridgewater. Their children are Elbridge (Ellie), George, and Max, all living in town; Cecil and Juanita, who are dead.

Willard married Ida Collins of Houlton.

In 1930 George tore down the log house and built a new house, but today he has moved nearer town on the farm formerly owned by A. M. Stackpole and since then by several others. It is now owned by George.

1858

Town Incorporated

By 1858 the town had reached a population of nearly five hundred and the people felt it was time to become incorporated.

The following is part of a letter the author received from Edith L. Hary, Law Librarian, Augusta, Maine, which reads:

The area was formerly two plantations known as Bridgewater Academy Grant and Portland Academy Grant and various residents petitioned the Legislature for an act of incorporation.

Petition

To the Hon. _____ the Legislature of the State of Maine _____

Your petitioners—inhabitants of the two half townships known as Bridgewater Academy Grant and Portland Academy Grant—respectfully represent, that the public conveniences and wants require a change in the form of our incorporation.

We therefore ask that these two half townships be incorporated into one town under the name of _____ with all the privileges usual in such cases. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

C. F. A. Johnson
Charles Kidder
Sam'l Kidder
Cyrus Chandler
Nathaniel Rideout Sr.
B. K. F. Rideout
James E. Briggs
Edward Snow
Elbridge Webber
James C. _____ Sr.*
Thomas G. Durgan
John Mactier

_____ Libby*
James Cain
Orein Nelson
Dennis Nelson
Joshua Fulton
John Fulton
D. E. Tewksbury
Nicholas Rideout
Jos. H. Ketchum
Jabez Crawford
John Beam
J. W. Gilman

*The two names left blank were unreadable.

The letter continues:

Under the Massachusetts law of 1797 it had been the practice to encourage the growth of academies by granting to them half a township of land. In 1803 the Committee assigning the grants divided the township between Bridgewater

Academy in Plymouth County, Massachusetts and Portland Academy. These grants became the town of Bridgewater by Private and Special Law, Chapter 171, of the year 1858, the first section which reads:

The plantation of Bridgewater Academy Grant and the plantation of Portland Academy Grant in the county of Aroostook are hereby incorporated into a town by the Name of Bridgewater, and the inhabitants of the said town are hereby vested with all the powers and privileges and immunities, and subject to all the duties and liabilities of incorporated towns in this state.

Thus was the town incorporated. It might be of interest to the readers if a word is said here about the photostat. This was an exact copy of the original petition which was written in long hand, the names appearing in the men's own handwriting. That is the reason that two of the names could not be made out, the writing being so poor.

1858

John Nelson

Only two families seem to have come to town this year, John Nelson and John McIntire. John Nelson came from Palermo with his wife and five children. He took a forty-acre lot of land which he cleared. He served in the Civil War; at its close he bought Mr. McIntire's farm. Years later he sold this farm to Isaac Durgin, who in turn sold it to Joseph Milbury. It is now owned by Charles Simonson.

Mr. Nelson had a very good education for those times and served as Town Auditor for many years.

His son Bert married Maude Burns; they live on the Burns homestead. They have one daughter, Vella.

Mr. Nelson was very musical, and for a number of years was director of the town band. He also sang in the choir at the Baptist Church.

1858

John McIntire

John McIntire no doubt came from Palermo, Maine, as he seems to have come at the same time as Mr. Nelson. He bought the forty acres west of Mr. Nelson's land. He, too, served in the Civil War. After returning to town he sold his land to Mr. Nelson and moved to Blaine.

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Several families moved to town this year. John McKeen came from Keswick, N. B. (near Fredericton), with his family. He came up the St. John River by boat as far as Woodstock, then overland to town. His cattle were driven by land from his home in Keswick by his sons.

John bought 1300 acres of wild land from William Pennington at two dollars an acre. This land was in the northern part of the Portland Academy Grant on the west side of the road. He built a house, which is still standing, and cleared a farm.

Two years later he built a dam and shingle-mill on the Whitney Stream which crossed his land (see sawmills). As his sons grew older they went into the woods nearly two miles to cut cordwood which was put into kilns and burned slowly to make charcoal. This he sold to George London to be used in his blacksmith shop on Bunker Hill.

At this time there was no village at the Center, possibly a house or two. The only houses that could be seen were the ones that set where the south end of the Farley Block now is (years ago it was called the Sheloah Hartley house) and one which was the G. W. Collins place (now Perry Carmichael's). There was a small clearing on the Dennis Nelson (Sargent) place, Ackerson place (Dan Bradstreet), Orin Nelson place (Donald Kinsbury), and at the Fulton place.

In 1884 John sold the mill site and much of the wild land to Elmer E. Milliken.

John had six sons and six daughters, namely: Pennington, Emerson, Alonzo, Lewis, Charles and Ben; Mary (Pryor), Annie (Hallett), Lizzie (Terrill), Jane (Esty), Melissa (Lunt), and Fern (who went west).

All the boys went west but Ben. After a few years Pennington, Lewis, and Charles returned. Fern who went west also, bought a ranch and started out for herself, but Fate stepped in. The man who owned the adjoining ranch was a bachelor; so, as the story goes, they were wed and lived happily ever after.

Pennington bought a farm on the West Road where his son Lewis lives today.

Ben stayed on the homestead where his son Frank lives today in the house built by his grandfather nearly a hundred years ago. His sons make the fourth generation on this farm, John, Ben, Frank and his sons.

G. W. Collins came from Ripley in the fall of 1860 and settled at the Corner. He was a very shrewd businessman and had business connections in many parts of the state.

At first Mr. Collins leased the store of C. F. A. Johnson, but the next year he bought it and the adjoining land. He moved the store to a new location and built a larger store, where he did a big business.

In 1866 he sold the store to Bedford Hume. This store was the second building from the Main Road on the north side of the street.

G. W. Collins carried on an extensive lumber business, and bought and sold cattle along with farming. He left town in 1871 to engage in business ventures elsewhere, but retained his business here. He returned in 1876 and built a sawmill at the Center on Whitney Stream. He also built a tannery for making upper leather for shoes (see tannery). It had just begun to operate when it was burned. He then sold his sawmill to T. G. Huntington and shortly this burned (see sawmills).

Mr. Collins then built a new sawmill and a new tannery, both of which he sold to C. P. Church.

About 1884 he bought the sawmill at the "Line" from John Pryor, which he improved by raising the dam and installing new machinery. He also bought the starch factory from George Hibbard which had been built about 1876. Mr. Collins carried on this factory along with others in nearby towns.

These were prosperous years for Mr. Collins, so he bought a great deal of wild land in the western part of the town from the present West Road northward, many thousand acres, hoping to sell it to new settlers.

In later years he lost considerable property, first in the fire at the Corner, May 11, 1894, and in the loss of the mill at the "Line" in December of the same year.

After several people started law suits following the Corner Fire, he tried to pay much of the damages, but he was a shrewd man and usually got the best of any deal—a hard man to work for, though honest.

One story is told by those who worked for him. In those days much of the pay the men received was in goods from his store. In settling up with the men he would say: "An ought's an ought, a two's a two, a jug of molasses coming to you, where's your jug," and that is just about all they had coming to them.

One of his favorite sayings was: "Exactly you know, boy." He must have had a very thin face, for the people called him, "Hatchet face."

Later they called him "Razor face." His answer to these was: "Getting sharper and sharper every year."

1860

Asa B. Harvey

Some years before 1860, Asa B. Harvey came here from Freedom prospecting for new lands. He met and married Marjorie Bradstreet, daughter of Nathaniel Bradstreet, returning to Freedom where he spent the greater part of his life. They had twelve children, five daughters and seven sons.

In 1860 he returned and bought a lot of wild land on the Snow Road, which he sold to Otis and Jerry Turner in 1864. This farm is today owned by Harry Simonson. He then had land on the Corner Road.

The next few years he bought cattle from the Maine and Canadian farmers and drove them to the southern part of the state selling some along the way. There were cattle yards along the way in which the cattle were put at night to keep them from straying. His son, Asa Jr., and one or two others were all the help he had in driving them. It took about five days to reach Bangor. He brought back wagons, sleds, plows, and other machinery for the farmers to use.

The same year, 1860, Henry Rideout bought the Cyrus Snow place on the East Blaine Road. Henry sold it to Phoebe Jane Field. She sold it to Henry C. Harvey, son of Asa B., February 21, 1872. Shortly after this transaction Henry C. Harvey died. After the business was settled, Asa Jr. bought it from Henry's widow, October 5, 1876.

One year after Asa Jr. took over the farm he had sown oats around the stumps in the newly cleared fields and that fall harvested three hundred bushels. Lemuel Cronkite of Canada came with his threshing machine to do the threshing. Helping Asa Jr. at the time was his brother Otis. Otis had a watch, probably one of the very few at that time in town. Lemuel had never seen one and after examining it and asking how it worked, he wanted it, so he agreed to thresh the whole 300 hundred bushels to pay for it. Lemuel got his watch, Asa got his oats threshed, and Otis got his pay in toll oats, which he took down state and sold, probably making enough to buy half a dozen watches.

Asa Jr. married Mary Gregory of Montville, Maine, but she did not come here until 1883. At that time she came, with her fourteen-months-old son Sumner, by train from Bangor to Debec Junction, N. B., then by team to Richmond, N. B., to Houlton and Bridgewater. She arrived

here March 14. Asa moved the household goods from Montville by team. Mary was here in time to see the snow melt away and the stumps show up where the spring planting would be done around them.

Asa and Mary's children were Sumner, Lilla, Alta, Edna, Ernest, and Eula. Ernest lives on the James Briggs farm and Edna on the farm that her father cleared.

1860

Robert Jamison

Robert Jamison came here from Summerfield, N. B. All of his family were born in Canada except John, who was born in Fort Fairfield while his mother was visiting there.

Robert's family were Elizabeth and Agnes, who remained in Canada; Lottie, who married George Nelson; Lettie (Merritt), Presque Isle; Ruth (Mills), Robinson; Maude (Emerson), South Berwick; Sarah (Kingsbury); Harriet (Kingsbury); John, Will, and Douglas. The latter went to the West when a young man.

John married Zipporah Kilcollins of East Blaine. He owned the farm that is just across the railroad crossing on the Corner Road where he farmed for years. He had three sons and two daughters. Alberta (Bertie) married C. Edgar Lawrence; Elizabeth married Mahlon Slipp. Only two are living in town today: Bertie and Perley, who has a farm on the Packard Road. He lives on the lot that was owned by Richard Perkins before the Corner Fire. Norman and George moved to Rumford.

Will married Eliza Budrow. Their son, Robert Jamison, is the present rural mail carrier.

1860

Charles Parks

Charles Parks came from New Brunswick and bought land on the Boundary Line Road. This farm changed hands many times until some time in the early 1900's it was bought by Archie Nichols who kept it a few years then sold it to Cole Tompkins in 1918. Mr. Tompkins also bought an additional forty acres bordering the Whitney Stream on the north. In 1930 he bought the Jacob Morse farm at the south corner of the road at the top of the hill from Ralph Everett.

Mr. Tompkins married Frances Hartley; they have one son, Merlin, and one daughter. Merlin and his father now farm together.

1860

Christopher Bradbury

Christopher Bradbury came here in 1860, he was Recruiting Officer during the Civil War. He married Mrs. Parsons, whose husband had been killed in the war. Mrs. Parsons owned the farm on the north corner of the Snow Road. Mrs. Parsons had a young son, Albert, who inherited the farm. This farm passed through several owners and was finally bought by William Whited. It is today owned by Harry Simonson.

1861

Alonzo Sargent

Two newcomers arrived in town this year, Alonzo Sargent and Edward Webber.

Alonzo Sargent (no relation to Joseph Sargent) came from Vermont. He was in business of several kinds for a number of years, then disappeared suddenly—where he went no one knew. He left his business in a dreadful muddle. That, and his disappearance, caused considerable gossip for several years.

One of the stories that circulated was that he had been murdered for his money; but that was unlikely, for where would he have acquired much money? There was little in circulation in those days, as most of the business was carried on by trade.

1861

Edward Webber

Edward Webber came the same year, but where from is not known after all these years. He had a little shop at the end of the bridge. Where or when he left is also unknown.

February 7, 1861 Cold Friday

February 7, 1861, was called "Cold Friday" because of the extreme cold. There were no thermometers, so there is no way of knowing just how cold it was. Stories are told that the cattle froze in the barns, but the barns were not as warm as those of today. Other stories are told that the weather was so cold that the men could not stay out of doors but a short time without becoming numbed with the cold. It must have been extreme to have been remembered.

1861

Berry Brothers

The Berry Brothers, John and Lewis, came here—where from is not known—and began clearing land on the west corner of the Snow and Boundary Line Roads. They both went to the Civil War and never returned to town. This land was later taken up by Joseph Sargent. It was later sold to Thomas Buckley and his grandfather Thomas Parks. It is now owned by Sam Hartley.

1863

Stackpole Family

The year 1863 brought only one family to town, but that family has been one of the most influential in the town for nearly a hundred years.

To get the background of this family we must turn back the pages of history to an earlier date, around 1830.

There lived in the town of Albion, Maine, a man named Samuel Stackpole. He was a man of character and courage. He had faith in the future and the vision of prosperity in a new land, not only for himself but for generations to come.

Samuel, therefore, left his quiet home and the comfort of the times for a home in the wilderness of Aroostook. Samuel and his wife and three sons—Emolas, Hiram, and Harris—made the long trip from Albion to Monticello by ox-team over a woods road, a distance of over a hundred miles.

Harris was married, and his wife and two-year-old son came with

him, but the son found the journey too much and died shortly after arriving at the new home. Harris and his wife took up a farm in Monticello. They had two more sons and a daughter, Augustus Marcellus, Roscoe, and Mary.

Augustus M. was born in 1840, educated in the schools of Monticello, and attended Houlton Academy. In 1863 he married Serena Robinson of Blaine and came to Bridgewater, moving his household goods by ox-team. He had bought the farm of Jason Russell on the Snow Road. This farm had only a small clearing, a small barn and house, but by diligence and perseverance he cleared the land and made a fine farm. For several years he taught school during the winter months.

To Augustus M. and Serena were born four sons and one daughter: Atwood, William, Harris G., Augustus M Jr., and Ida Mae. Atwood, William, and Ida died in their early twenties.

After enduring the hardships of pioneer life and homemaking and raising a family, his wife, Serena, died in 1885 when Augustus Jr. was only four years old.

In 1887 Augustus Sr. married Annie Miller of Tracey Mills, N. B. To them were born two sons and three daughters: Grace, Frank, Ethel, Cora, and Donald. All except Donald, the youngest, died when they were nearly twenty years of age.

At an early age Augustus Sr. began to take an active part in town affairs. He served as First Selectman for twenty-five years. Most of this time was before 1905 when the first Town Report was issued. He was Town Treasurer from 1909 to 1917, a member of the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy, and he represented the district in the Maine State Legislature. His only fraternal affiliations were the Masons and Grange. He died in 1918 at the age of seventy-eight having served his town long and faithfully.

Harris G. was born in 1870 and was educated in the local schools. He married Addie Mae Peterson of Centerville, N. B., in 1895 and moved to his grandfather's farm in Monticello, which he had bought. He lived here until 1901 when he sold it and bought his father's farm on the Snow Road in 1902. His father then moved into town to live. Harris lived on the farm until 1907 when he built a house in town, but carried on his farming, adding three more farms in other parts of town. He also bought and shipped potatoes.

He followed in his father's footsteps in town affairs. He served as First Selectman from 1909 to 1933 except for two years, 1920 and 1921 when his brother Augustus Jr. held the office. He was a member of

the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy over sixteen years and on the School Committee from 1935 to 1937. He had two daughters, Edith (Whited) and Ida (Farley), and one son, Ralph.

Augustus M. Jr. was born in 1881. He was educated in the public schools and was graduated from Ricker Classical Institute in 1901. After graduation he was hired as the first teacher of the new high school, Bridgewater Classical Academy. That same year he married Mabel MacIlroy of Houlton. They went to Chicago where they lived two years. While there he was engaged in the wholesale department of Marshall Field and Co.

In 1904 they returned. He then went into the retail machinery business. The next year he began farming.

From 1908 to 1916 he was Collector of Customs at the Boundary. In 1917 he built the two story concrete block in town where he added automobiles and hardware to his machinery business. In 1923 the business was incorporated as the A. M. Stackpole Co.

Like his father, Augustus M. Jr. served his town in various positions. He was Superintendent of Schools for five years before the formation of the School Union. He was on the School Committee from 1912 to 1921; he was a member of the Board of Trustees and Treasurer of Bridgewater Classical Academy for forty-five years. He was First Selectman in 1920 and 1921.

In 1935 Augustus and his wife moved to Houlton where he opened a salesroom for automobiles and trucks. He became active in the town of Houlton, being past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Meduxnekeag Club, founder and director of the Country Club, Treasurer for twenty years and Trustee for thirty years of Ricker Classical Institute and College, and Chairman of the Aroostook District of Boy Scouts. He died April, 1953.

He was a member of the Congregational Church in Houlton. His fraternal affiliations were Free and Accepted Masons, Mars Hill chapter, St. Alderman's Commandery, and Anah Temple of Bangor.

Donald, youngest son of Augustus Sr., was born in 1902; he was educated in the local schools and attended University of Maine. Like his father and brothers he has served the town as First Selectman and on the School Committee, as well as in other positions.

Ralph, son of Harris, is following the Stackpole tradition of serving the town in various offices.

So has history repeated itself through three generations.

Four men came to town in the year 1864. The first was Jacob Morse who came from Richmond, Maine. He bought a lot of wild land from John D. Baird on the south corner of the road opposite the present Victor Ketchum place. Only a small clearing had been made by Mr. Baird, so it was the task of Mr. Morse to clear the land and make a good farm. Besides farming he carried on a large lumber business and raised many cattle.

Jacob married Louise Moody after he came to town. They had two daughters, Augusta and Laura, and two sons, Fred and Guy. In Jacob's will he left the west part of the farm to his grandson and namesake, Jacob Morse II, who lives on it today.

Guy, son of Jacob, married Deborah Hallett; to them were born sixteen children, nine girls and seven boys. One boy died in infancy.

In 1896 Guy bought a farm on the West Road from Wilson Estabrook. He lived here until 1901 when he sold to William Webber and moved to Seattle, Washington, but in 1909 he returned and bought a farm from Charles Bradstreet. This farm was also on the West Road. He lived here until 1920 when he sold it to Frank Sharp and moved to Massachusetts where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in October 1937 and was brought here for interment in the Boundary Cemetery.

Joshua (Doss), son of Guy, lives on the Sharp farm having married Frank Sharp's youngest daughter, Etta.

Jacob, as has been said, lives on his grandfather's farm. Jacob and Joshua are the only two of Guy's fifteen children that are living in town today.

Guy left a family of sixty grandchildren and fifty-seven great-grandchildren. Can anyone beat that? But then, he had fifteen children.

Otis Turner and his Jerry came here and bought the land that Asa B. Harvey had bought in 1860. They cleared most of the land, then sold it to Albert Briggs, who sold the west half, which was the farm of Otis, to Fleetwood Simonson. The farm of Jerry is now owned by Sam Hartley.

1864

William Shane

William Shane had the third farm on the south side of the Snow Road. His daughter, who was married, built a very modern house (for those times). This farm was sold to Edmund Hayes in 1867 and is today owned by Earl Kingsbury.

1864

Slipp Family

Samuel Slipp came from Cambridge, N. B., and bought a farm from a man by the name of Shirley. Samuel married Mary Hayward; they had three boys and two girls: J. Howard, Lucy, Charles, Isabelle, and Beecher. Most of them were not born here. Hard luck seemed to be Howard's lot during his younger years. First Beecher died in 1868; the next year his mother died, 1869; then four years later his father died in 1873. This left Howard at the age of sixteen to look after his young brother and two sisters.

In 1876 Howard married Georgiana Webber. They lived on the farm that his father had bought. As he grew more prosperous he bought a wood lot on the west side of the road from Charles and Eugene Bradstreet.

Howard and "Ann" Slipp had five girls and three boys: Laura, Marion, Geneva, Lucy, Amber, Bert, Frank, and Mahlon. Howard was a good farmer and as times grew better he built a new house and barns and, after potato raising increased, a large potato house. Howard died in 1934. His son Frank lives on the homestead.

Bert bought the John London farm in 1903, located on Bunker Hill. A few years later he bought a woodlot across the track which crosses his farm. Not long ago he bought the Robert Brown farm making over five hundred acres. Bert died in 1952. The other brothers and sisters live in other parts of the state.

1865

Nelson Caine (John Nelson)

Nelson Caine came here this year, but he did not buy property until 1867 when he bought a lot of land on the Snow Road, the third lot

west of the Boundary on the south side of the road. His wife was a daughter of Otis Turner. His son, Edwin, later took over the farm, cleared more land, and improved the buildings. This farm was bought by John Nelson, and is owned by his son, Howard.

In 1914 John bought the Wilmot Hartley house in town where Howard lives today.

John's family are Donna, Shirley (Barker), Fred, Carl, Merrill, Howard, and Catherine. Only Howard and Shirley live in town today.

1865

Harvey Collins

James Harvey Collins came here from St. Albans, Maine. With him came his wife, Mary Sayward, and four children—Fred, Jennie, Edward, and Etta. He had gone to California at the time of the Gold rush, making the trip by boat around the tip of South America. It is thought that he had a very successful trip, as he was able to buy considerable property after coming to town.

James Harvey was a brother of G. W. Collins and, although not so spectacular a man as G. W., he became quite influential. His property was mostly around the Corner; at one time he had three farms.

After his children were grown, he and his wife made another trip to California, this time searching for health instead of gold, which he evidently found, for he lived many years after he returned.

Edward, son of J. H., was Postmaster at the Corner from December 1886 to May 1888. After that he was Express Messenger on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, but the work was too confining, so on the doctor's orders he gave up the work and sought an outside job.

An opportunity occurred which gave him the chance to work out of doors and at the time time to regain his health. He was made Game Warden. His territory was the Allegash River area.

It was while he was on one of his rounds of duty that he met with a serious accident. A law breaker, thinking that Edward was after him, fired a shot which went through his chest; however Edward recovered. The law breaker, after a year, was captured, stood trial, and was sentenced to ten years in State Prison, but before the time was up he was committed to the State Hospital.

This accident put an end to Edward's Warden duties, as the work was now too strenuous. For many years he was janitor of the high school building.

He had a very good education and was a great reader. Many are the times he helped a boy or girl solve a problem in algebra, or a knotty problem in history.

He served as Postmaster again, from April 1919 to November 1926. It was during his term of office that the Post Office was raised to a third class office.

He married Grace Barrett, sister of Edward Barrett. They had three children: Harvey, who lost his life while a brakeman on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad at Greenville; Mae (Tidd); and Etta (Parker), who is a successful teacher in Caribou.

Etta Collins, daughter of J. H. Collins, married Edward Barrett. Fred and Jennie, son and daughter of J. H. Collins, moved to other parts of the state.

1866

Richard H. Perkins

Richard H. Perkins came from Woodstock, N. B. According to one account he was a "joiner" by trade. This is interpreted as a "skilled workman who finishes the inside woodwork for houses," or a maker of furniture. He established a jewelry trade at the Corner, but after the fire of 1894 he built a house at the Center with his jewelry shop in the front part. He was the first one to bring suit against G. W. Collins after the fire. After that others did likewise.

He married Ada Ketchum, daughter of Sam Ketchum. They had no children. Mrs. Perkins was Postmistress at the Center from September 22, 1909, until May 16, 1916.

A niece of Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Ethel K. Collins, now has the house.

1867

Edmund Hayes

Edmund Hayes came from Limerock, Maine, and bought the William Shane place (now the Earl Kingsbury place). He lived here most of his life. The last years he was blind. His wife often took him riding; she drove a little bay horse.

The Baptist Church was organized this year, on Bunker Hill. A church was later built on the Smith farm (see churches).

William I. Lawrence came from Prince William, N. B., with his wife and two sons, John and Albert, and four daughters, Elizabeth (Lizzie), Henrietta (Etta), Bertha, and Agnes. Charles Edgar was born after they came here.

William bought a lot of land from Josiah Bradstreet. After living here a few years he sold it to his son-in-law, John Kimball, but retained a house lot where he lived with his youngest son, C. Edgar.

About 1895 Edgar bought, from Mr. Pennington, the farm that had been cleared by Gideon Kinney. This farm was north of the Oliver Rideout farm.

Edgar married Alberta Jamison in 1904. In 1910 he bought the Chandler farm east of the village. This made him one of the largest farmers in town at the time. In 1924 he bought the Baptist parsonage at the Center and moved there in November of that year.

The next year he sold the farm on Bunker Hill to the Lawrence Brothers (sons of John), but through the adverse years of the thirties it went back to Edgar until he sold it in 1950 to Ralph Terrill. About 1935 he bought the Martin Rideout farm which he sold to Dan Bradstreet in 1945.

Edgar has one daughter, Mrs. Bertha Durrell of Kingfield; at the present time Edgar and his wife are living with her.

John, oldest son of William, spent six years in the West when he was a young man, then returned and bought the Oliver Rideout farm. He married Ruth Ritter of Williamstown, N. B. They had three children, Annie (Simonson), and twin boys, Bert and Byron.

Mrs. Lawrence is still living. She owns the farm and it is managed by her son Byron, who married Glenna Cook, daughter of Fred Cook.

Albert, son of William, married Nellie Dyer of Canada. After a few years in town they moved to Massachusetts where he spent his last years. They had two sons, Elmer and Donald, the latter still living in Massachusetts.

The daughters of William were Elizabeth, married to John Kimball; Henrietta, married to Martin Rideout; Bertha, married to Elmer Miliken. Agnes died at the age of ten.

1869

Allen Boone

Allen Boone was born in Canada near Keswick on the St. John River. He came here from Bangor driving a four-horse team and hauling supplies for G. W. Collins' numerous projects.

At first Mr. Boone was in the lumber business but later turned to farming. His farm was south of Whited Lake.

He married Emily Ketchum, daughter of Sam Ketchum. They were living at the Corner at the time of the fire, and their buildings were burned with the others, but he rebuilt immediately, a very modern house for those times.

In the early 1900's Mrs. Boone started to build a church. The frame was put up, the outside finished, even to the stained glass window, but for some reason it was never finished. No one knows today just what denomination it was to have been, possibly Church of England since that is what the Ketchums were. It sat on the east side of the road a short distance from the Corner until it was torn down about thirty years ago.

The Boones had no children, but a niece, Ethel Ketchum, lived with them. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Boone, she inherited the property. Ethel and her husband, Arthur Collins, lived on the farm until a few years ago when they sold it to Roy Cluff. It is now owned by Isaiah Hartley of Presque Isle.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins now live in the Perkins house at the Center.

1869

Charles Gallupe

Charles Gallupe came here about this time, from where it is not known. He had a little store at the "Line" on the point of land near the bridge. After only four years in business he died suddenly. Possibly the Gallupes in Robinson and Mars Hill are his descendants.

1870 Thomas Parks — Thomas Buckley

The Parkses came from the Isle of Man, England, and settled in Houlton on a hill between Houlton and the Canadian border. This hill still bears the name Parks Hill.

Thomas Parks came from Houlton to Bridgewater in 1870. He bought the farm originally owned by the Berry Brothers, and continued clearing it. With him came his grandson, Thomas Buckley, who bought the Edwin Snow place.

Rodney Parks, son of Thomas, improved the farm and cared for his elderly parents. Later he sold the farm to Thomas Buckley and took up a farm on the Monteith Road (see Monteith Road).

Thomas Buckley farmed for a number of years, then went to Massachusetts where he acquired considerable property. He returned to town when an old man, bought the old hotel, and lived there until his death. (See hotels.) His farm is now owned by Sam Hartley.

1870 Thomas Cook

Thomas Cook came from Nashwaak, N. B., and bought the Sam Kidder farm on the Corner Road. He finished clearing the farm, improved it, and built a fine set of buildings.

Thomas had two children, Fred and Laura (White). Fred married Florence Nelson. To them were born three children: Glen and Glenna, who are twins, and Thomas. Glen is married to Arvella Kingsbury, Glenna to Byron Lawrence, and Thomas to Miss Gray from Mars Hill. Thomas has bought the Chandler farm on the Corner Road. Glen has the Charles Ackerson farm on the Boundary Line Road but lives with his father.

This is a four-generation farm: Thomas, Fred, Glen, and Glen's son Robert.

After the death of his wife Fred married Jane Kingsbury, who also died a few years ago. Fred spends his winters in Florida.

1870 Samuel Hartley

Samuel Hartley came from Canada and lived on a farm on the Corner Road. After a few years he sold this farm to Orlo Smith. It was

later owned by Edward Dow and is now the property of John Edmunds.

Besides carrying on his farm Samuel also did a great deal of buying and selling goods of all kinds: potatoes, apples, cattle, machinery, anything he could sell. He was a born salesman, being a keen trader.

Samuel was married before coming to town. His children were Elbridge, Nettie (Webber), Wilmot, and Laura (Gomez).

Elbridge married Sheloan Durgin, daughter of Thomas Durgin. In 1895 he and his brother, Wilmot, bought the Thomas Snow farm on the Snow Road, the second farm east of the Line Road. After five years Elbridge sold his share to Wilmot and bought the Elbridge Webber farm, first settled by William Mallery. This farm was across the road from the Edward Snow farm. Later he bought the Jerry Turner farm, a half lot west of the Webber place, making about two hundred acres.

When Elbridge died in 1903, his widow managed the farm until her son Sam bought the place from the heirs in 1917. When Wilmot died in 1923 Sam purchased that place from the heirs.

Sam has added the Edward Snow farm on the east corner, the Buckley place on the west corner of the Line Road, the two lots north of the Snow farms, and other property until today he is the largest farmer in town, having over eight hundred acres.

Elbridge's family were Bertha, Sam, Catherine, better known as Cass (Kingsbury), Frances (Tompkins), and Rhoda (Lamb).

Wilmot married Rose Durgin, sister of Sheloan and daughter of Thomas Durgin. They had five girls—Nettie, Pauline, Hildred, Imogene, and Rowena—all living in other parts of the state or in Massachusetts.

Sam married Clara Gardner of Canada. They had one son Ralph, who was killed in Formosa in 1945, and two daughters, Evelyn and Glenna, both living in California.

1872

John Pryor

John Pryor came from Canada to the Boundary Line. He bought the sawmill from John D. Baird (see sawmills), and later bought a store at the "Line." His son Herbert had a grocery and meat store at the Center. Another son Joshua had a harness shop in the Freeman block for many years.

Dr. White came here from Canada and lived at the Boundary Line (see Doctors).

In order to get the background of the Barrett family we must go back to about 1840 when a man named Edward Barrett came from Nashwaak, N. B., and bought a farm half a mile from the Boundary Line at the top of the hill in Canada. He had a large family of sons who helped on the farm and at the mill at the "Line."

The first Barrett to come to Bridgewater was Sanders, son of Edward, who came in 1874 to the Corner. He was a carpenter by trade. He was married but had no family.

George Barrett, son of Edward, came a few years later. He bought the farm that was known as the Howard Jamison farm, just under the hill below the Corner. He married Isadore Packard, daughter of David Packard. Mrs. Barrett was Postmistress at the Corner from June 14, 1889, to September 29, 1893. George served the town as Tax Collector from 1910 to 1921.

George had two children, Harry and Helen. Harry at one time owned the farm where Chester Sargent now lives. He then had the Will Black farm but later bought a farm in Blaine. Helen married Harry Buck of Houlton. She was a talented musician. Both Harry and Helen are now dead.

Edward C. Barrett, grandson of the first Edward mentioned above, came here in 1880. At that time he married Etta Collins, daughter of James Harvey Collins. Their family were Belle, Vella, Flora, Fred, and Dennison.

Edward bought one of the farms owned by his father-in-law, J. H. Collins, where he lived the remainder of his life. Upon his death, his son Dennison managed the farm, later selling it to John Edmunds, and moved to Warren, Maine, where he was Superintendent of the prison farms at Thomaston until his death in 1951.

Fred left town when a young man and died a few years ago in California. Belle (Mrs. M. L. Williams) lives in Presque Isle, Maine; Flora

(Mrs. E. A. Welch) lives in Mars Hill; and Vella (Mrs. E. W. Stacey) lives in Shirley, Maine.

Dennison, brother of Edward, worked on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad many years; his widow still lives in town.

For many years there were two Den Barretts in town and in order to distinguish them they were called "Old Den," brother of Edward, and "Young Den," son of Edward.

All of the Barretts were very musical and had especially fine voices. The older generation received considerable training at the evening singing schools in Canada. Edward had a fine tenor voice and sang in church choirs both in Bridgewater and in Canada and was in great demand at funerals. He would leave his farm work and help out at a funeral at any time, on both sides of the Border.

He played the organ and the violin and sometimes in the long winter evenings he would line up his five children and try to teach them to read music, the do, re, me method. They all had good voices. Mrs. Barrett died in June 1952, Mr. Barrett quite a few years earlier.

1876

Tannery

The tannery was running this year (see Tannery).

1877

Fullerton Farm

In 1877 this farm was deeded to Mary Pryor. It was then sold to Wilmot Briggs. In 1902 David A. McCluskey bought it and in 1915 he sold it to his son-in-law, R. A. Fullerton. Mr. Fullerton has two children, a boy and a girl. His wife Vera is now nearly blind, but still enjoys her friends and gets around very well. She attends church and many other social gatherings.

1877

Alonzo Tompkins and Family

By Harvey A. Tompkins

June 3, 1953

To Miss Annie E. Rideout who has taken the responsibility of writing the History of Bridgewater and some of its people.

I assure you that it is a great pleasure to comply with your request and write a short history of my Family. I am proud to be a citizen of Bridgewater and Aroostook County. *It has been said that our Country consists of 48 states and Aroostook.*

Aroostook is very rich in splendid productive farm and timber lands. No doubt it was our fine timber lands which brought on our bloodless Aroostook War. Lumbermen from both sides of the international line insisted on cutting fine large trees and floating them down the St. John River. Aroostook is also rich in lakes and streams. One of these streams, the Presque Isle, has its source in Fort Fairfield, flows south through Easton, Westfield, Blaine and Bridgewater and crosses the international line at the place known to the citizens of Bridgewater as the Boundary. A short distance this side of the Boundary, the Presque Isle stream receives the water of the Whitney stream. Not far from this point is where my father and mother first began their home life.

It is very near the location where the Boundary Church and school house now stands and it was here that the writer was born. My father, Alonzo Tompkins, and my mother, Jennie Hartley Tompkins, were born in Carleton County, New Brunswick. Father was born about 1848, and came to Aroostook when about seven years old and lived with his uncle, Mr. Chase in Ludlow, Maine, until he was a young man. In 1877, father and mother were married and made their home as stated above, near the Boundary in the town of Bridgewater. There were three children, Harvey A., Otho Wilton and Serena.

My father was always a hard working man and home lover and a good provider. He used up all of his working days at first in the lumber woods, on the stream drive cooking, and later in the shingle mills and tannery of this town.

I well remember that we lived in several places in Bridgewater until about 1894. Mr. A. L. Chandler gave father permission to build a house on the piece of land where I (Harvey A. Tompkins) now live. The house was put up quickly, in the month of March and we moved in before the snow left the ground and while the house was not plastered and finished. Mr. Chandler deeded the building lot to father in November 1898. The land was then all covered with bushes and heavy trees and how father and I enjoyed cleaning up the land, although it took quite a few years to do it as father worked out and we did the cleaning up as he could get time during the long summer evenings. When I was old enough to help in a financial way he remodeled the house which was enjoyed by the whole family.

The house was burned March 21, 1925 at 8 A.M. No one was home except father and mother and NOTHING was saved. As the house

contained the savings gathered and accumulated over a period of 48 years, it was a very severe blow to both and from which they never fully recovered. My father passed away very shortly after this fire, on August 14, 1925, at the age of 74. If any man ever had good, industrious, law abiding citizens for parents, it was I. I would be a vagabond indeed, if for no other reason I had not tried to be a useful citizen of the town. I am proud of the fact that records will show, that I have served my town as a member of the School Committee, Trustee of B.C.A., Auditor and on the Board of Selectmen. I also consider it a great honor to have represented this section of the County in the Legislature of 1931, and also 1933, and take this opportunity to thank any and all of my friends who gave me their support and those who will read this outline. Also served as State Senator for the years 1935-36-37 and 1938 and was elected County Commissioner of Aroostook at the State Election September 12, 1938, serving from 1939 to January 1, 1951 or for twelve years. As I grow older I appreciate more, how my parents worked and schemed in order that I might be kept in school.

I am not unmindful of the fact that because of this I was able to teach school in Bridgewater and have ten years' experience on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad as operator, agent and travelling auditor.

For 21 years I held the position of Aroostook Representative of the Bowker Fertilizer Company of Boston.

My brother Wilton was associated with me in the fertilizer business for a number of years, having an office in Caribou. Wilton passed away very suddenly February 29th, 1920 and was laid to rest on his birthday, March 2, 1920, leaving his wife and three children—Wilton, Ruoff and Mary.

It is an undescrivable loss to have one's brother taken while so young and while his family needed him so much.

As I write this short history, I think of the many changes in travel, communication, agriculture, education and many other things through which we have passed since father built our little home in 1894, on the spot where I now live and where I built a new home during the summer of 1933, on the same spot where the old home burned. I think when a small boy of sitting in the old school house, the old rough board seats, all grades in one room and taught by Mr. Asa H. Bradstreet and others, and compare that with our school system today. Think of the first telephone that came to Bridgewater and placed in the old Tannery Company store. Ed. Folsom permitted me, as a small lad, to listen in. Compare that with our radio and telephone system today. I think of the old stage coach, hung on leather straps in some ways, a day's trip to Houlton or Presque Isle, and how they always stopped at Bridge-

water for dinner and for changing horses, and several of these coaches stored just in front of our old home. Compare that with our railroad system and air service today. I think of that treat we children thought and looked forward to, a trip to Houlton with father and the old horse and wagon. We started early in the morning and got back late at night, compare that with our 1953 model automobiles.

In conclusion I want to say our town started right. It had a good foundation inasmuch as our first settlers were from that old New England and New Brunswick stock of hard working, honest, and God fearing men and women and I want to congratulate you on being closely related to the first settlers of this town.

1880

Fred Snow

(See stores)

1880

Thomas G. Huntington

Thomas G. Huntington came from Richmond, Maine, to Woodstock, N. B., in 1870 and in 1880 came to Bridgewater. By trade he was a blacksmith.

He bought the sawmill at the Center from G. W. Collins but shortly after the purchase it was burned. The site was then sold back to Mr. Collins. No doubt there was a lawsuit, for it is told that they were many times engaged in such suits. Mr. Huntington always pleading his own cases and often winning, as he had a very keen legal mind.

In 1890 Mr. Huntington bought from John Ketchum the last farm in town next to the Blaine line, on the west side of the road. In March 1894 the buildings were burned, but he immediately erected a better house.

Between the years of 1880 and 1890 he followed his trade of blacksmith; his shop was the building that is now the home of Charles Murphy.

In 1903 he sold his farm to his son-in-law, Robert Kingsbury. This farm is today a four-generation farm: Thomas Huntington, Mrs. Sadie Huntington Kingsbury, Allen Kingsbury, and his children.

About 1912 he bought the farm that today is owned by Donald Kingsbury, but after a few years he sold and moved back to his native town of Richmond. He had several daughters and one son. The only

one of his family living in town today is his daughter, Mrs. Sadie Kingsbury.

Mrs. Kingsbury has two children, Allen, who has the farm, and Arvella (Mrs. Glen Cook).

1882

J. Fuller Bradstreet

In 1882 J. Fuller Bradstreet came from Richmond, N. B., at the age of twenty-one. Having attended the local schools of Richmond and Houlton Academy his education was better than the average of those days.

After looking over several towns he decided to settle in Bridgewater, so he bought a woodlot on the Boundary Line Road from John D. Baird. At that time there was only a rough road through the woods. Mr. Baird owned most of the land in this part of the township and, after making a small clearing and building a barn, sold it to new settlers.

Having a zest for work, with courage, perseverance and hard labor, working early and late, Mr. Bradstreet cleared the land, making a very fine farm, and erected a good set of buildings.

After living alone on his farm for seven years he met Kate Forest Teague of Caribou, who was teaching school here at the time. She was a graduate of Castine Normal School. They were married in 1889.

To this union were born six children: Forest Teague; Mildred; Bernice; Winnifred and Katherine, who were twins; and Robert, who died in infancy.

Mrs. Bradstreet died in 1909 after twenty years of happy married life. Although bowed by sorrow Mr. Bradstreet devoted himself to caring for his motherless children alone. Again death struck his home and claimed his eldest daughter, Mildred. The cares of the household then fell on the second daughter, Bernice.

With only their father to encourage them they all graduated from high school and went on to higher institutions of learning. Forest attended college and the girls graduated from normal schools.

Forest, after teaching several years, became associated with his father in farming. He married Jessie Everett of Bridgewater; they had two children, Warren and Joyce Kate. He later bought the farm from his father and built a very modern house on the site of the old one.

Bernice taught school several years in nearby towns, then went to California where she is still teaching.

Winnifred and Katherine were successful teachers before their marriages. Winnifred married Linwood Wellington of Caribou, and Katherine married E. Victor Cram of Millinocket.

Mr. Bradstreet took an active part in town affairs: he was School Supervisor many years, before the Union was formed; he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy for over twenty years; he served six years on the School Committee; and was on the Board of Health for a number of years. He was a member of Bridgewater Grange and an ardent worker in the United Baptist Church. He lived with his son until his death about twenty years ago.

Forest began serving his town at a very early age: he was on the School Board from 1914 to 1917 and again from 1925 to 1929; he was one of the Selectmen from 1930 to 1933, besides holding other offices.

He was a member of the Grange from the age of fourteen until it closed in 1942 and held practically every office, serving as Master for several years. He was a member of the Universalist Church of Caribou. He died about ten years ago. His widow, Mrs. Jessie Bradstreet, is in possession of the farm. She spends the school year at Oak Grove Seminary for Girls, as housemother. Her son Warren lives on the farm.

1882

Henry Scott

Henry Scott came here and bought a farm on the south side of Bunker Hill from Charles Bradstreet. Part of the farm was a wood lot which he sold to Howard Slipp, whose farm adjoined it on the south.

Henry had five children. One son Ransford, carried on the farm after Henry's death. It is now owned by Ransford's son, William. This is another four-generation farm: Henry, Ransford, William, and William's sons.

1882

William McBurnie

Another arrival this year was William McBurnie, who came from Middle Simonds, N. B. He bought the farm on the north side of the Snow Road that had been first settled by Orlo Smith. He later sold it to his son Edmund, who sold it to Harry Good. It is owned today by Harry Simonson.

The Finnemores came here from Carlton County, N. B., when the boys were very small. There were four boys and five girls: Charles; Archie; Duncan; George Will; Kate, who married James Wright; Emily, who married Wesley McNinch; and Vine, who married William Green. The other two girls married and left town.

Charles married Berdie Bulley, Archie married Minnie Bulley, and George Will married Ada Morrell. Duncan was never married.

Charles' children are James, Stanley, Leonard, Eric, Dorothy, and Frances.

Archie has two children, Clara and Lewis (who has a grocery store and meat market). He is now the Representative to the State Legislature. Only Charles and Archie are living at the present time.

The Finnemore men worked in the tannery during the years it was in operation. They bought land on the West Road and built comfortable homes.

Lewis Oswald Bradbury came here in 1882 and ran the boarding-house on Tannery Street for G. W. Collins. With him came his wife, three sons, and four daughters. Only two grew up and lived in town: Hattie, who married Charles Burns; and Effie, who married Herman McIntyre. The boys were Frank, Walter (Wallie), and George Renalda (Nal), the youngest. When the boys were old enough they worked in the tannery until it closed.

Frank married Gertrude Holmes; they had quite a large family but all have moved away from town.

Walter never married.

Nal married Laura Kinney from Canada. He has four sons: Wilbur, Leon, Earl, and Elden. A son Guy died a few years ago and a daughter died when a small child.

Earl and Elden are farmers. They own the farm that was first settled by Charles Kidder, later owned by Charles Bradstreet, and then by Fred Nickerson. Elden is unmarried. Earl bought the old hotel which he remodeled and where he now resides. Wilbur, the oldest, works with his brothers. He has a nice home on the Randall Road. Leon has a fine law practice in Hartford, Connecticut.

1883

Kinney Family

The Kinney family traces its ancestry back to Ireland. There is a book owned by Mrs. Isah Kinney that gives the family history in the old country and down to about fifty years ago. It is too bad this book was not available, for it no doubt gives many interesting facts and stories.

Gilbert Kinney came here from Bristol, N. B., in 1883. At first he lived on the Jacob Morse farm, no doubt working for him. In 1910 he bought from Albert Chandler the farm where his son Austin lives today.

He had a family of five boys and five girls. They were Isaiah, Emery, Edith (who died April 1953), Lena (Shaw), Bertha (Horn), Austin, Frank, Albert, Hazel (Beals), and Pearl (who died when an infant).

1884

Elmer E. Milliken

Elmer E. Milliken of Surry, Maine, after spending two successful years in the lumber business in Minnesota, arrived in Houlton in the spring of 1884. As there was no railroad at that time, and traveling by team was impossible at that time of year, he walked from Houlton to Bridgewater on the early morning crust.

He bought the shingle mill from John McKeen, which he operated ten years. During that time he had an understanding with a number of the farmers whereby they would take a wagon- or sled-loads of shingles to Houlton and bring back merchandise for the storekeepers.

When the railroad was put through the town in 1895 it was a great advantage to Mr. Milliken, as it enabled him to sell lumber to the outside markets. He then built a long lumber mill. His letterheads read:

Spruce Frames, Hemlock Boards
and
Cedar Shingles

From 1895 to 1900 he cut lumber on the North and South Branches of the Whitney Stream and around Portland Lake. In 1900-1901 A. L. Chandler built a lumber camp two miles west of town on Letter D, Range 2, where he cut and hauled logs to Mr. Milliken's mill for so much a thousand feet.

In 1902 he had his own camp on the Packard Road back of the Raymond farm. In 1915 the shingle mill burned but he soon rebuilt it. He retired from active duty in 1918, when his sons Leon and William took over the business.

Elmer E. Milliken married Bertha Lawrence in 1885. To them were born four children: Leon, Charles Morton, William, and Henrietta.

Mr. Milliken was a keen judge of lumber and under his instruction Leon and William gained their training and knowledge. They carried on the business for several years, operating camps on D Plantation. Then William went into business for himself in Presque Isle. Leon carried on the business until his death in 1924.

William became very successful in the lumber business and also engaged in farming. He served in World War I. He was active in the American Legion, a member of the Masonic Lodge, Chairman of the City Council of Presque Isle, besides holding other offices, and was active in various other organizations. He died April 3, 1952.

Charles Morton, better known as "Mort," is a retired Brigadier General, U. S. Army, now living in Tennessee (see page 92).

Henrietta (Vose) lives in Freeport, Long Island, N. Y. She has one daughter, Jane.

Leon's son, Ralph, is a very successful merchant in town, operating a general store, assisted by his charming wife Virginia (Brewer). He has been Town Treasurer since 1941. They have one son, Leon.

1885

Asa H. Bradstreet

Asa H. Bradstreet, a younger brother of J. Fuller, came from Richmond, N. B. He attended Houlton Academy and after graduation taught school in Houlton several years. Having an urge to travel he spent three years in the West, most of the time in Kansas.

Upon returning to the East he came to Bridgewater (1885) where he taught school for a short time, then bought a lot of wild land close to that of his brother, J. Fuller.

Like all these farms at that time, they had to be cleared. This he did. In 1902 he sold part of the farm to D. A. McCluskey (this is now the Fullerton farm), and the rest to his brother J. Fuller.

In 1903 he bought the store of Nate Bradstreet and started in the grocery business (see stores).

Sometime previous to this he had acquired the house and seven acres

of land of Wilson Webber, on the south side of J. Fuller's farm, which he sold to Adolphus Kingsbury.

In 1908 he bought the last farm on the West Road, which joined D Plantation and had been owned by George Cole. He now combined farming and the grocery business.

Asa H. Bradstreet married Minerva Tooker from Canada. She was a talented musician and for many years had a large class of piano pupils. They had three children: Frank, Minerva, and James.

Asa was at one time Supervisor of Schools in the town and in the early 1900's was the Town Auditor. He took no other active part in town affairs, devoting all of his time to his own business.

Frank bought the J. H. Farley grocery store which he operated several years. At the same time he was the Postmaster, from May 16, 1916 to April 14, 1919 (see stores).

In 1920 he sold the store to his brother-in-law, Guy S. Twitchell, and went west settling in Riddle, Oregon. He married Etta Pennington; they had no children. He died early in 1953.

Several years after Frank went to Oregon to live, Asa sold all of his property and went there to live with Frank, where he died.

1885 First School at Center

The first school at the Center was started this year (see schools).

1889 Frank Sharp

There seems to have been no new settlers between 1885 and 1889, but this year four new families came to town. Although Frank Sharp was born in Bridgewater, he went to Woodstock, N. B., with his parents when a small child and grew up there. In 1889 he returned and bought a half lot, eighty acres, from G. W. Collins along the North Branch of Whitney Stream and half a mile from the West Road. The only road to this farm was over a woods road from town near where the Station now stands.

Here he built a frame house consisting of a parlor, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. Behind the house he built a milk house of

logs and banked it with earth which kept the milk cool in summer and the frost out in winter. Along the walls of the milk house were narrow shelves where the pans of milk were set. Later the pans were replaced by tall five-gallon cans. These cans had a tap at the bottom through which the milk could be drawn off, leaving the cream undisturbed. The cans were kept cool by being placed in a tub of water.

As soon as Frank got this place paid for he bought the eighty acres nearer the West Road. This also was purchased from G. W. Collins who owned most of the land on the north side of the West Road in the Bridgewater Academy Grant.

In 1899 he built a barn and then a house on the new lot, and the next year moved from the old house to the new one near the road. He lived here about twenty years, then sold to Elisha Shaw. It was then sold to Harold Beals and is today owned by Ray Yerxa.

After Frank sold his farm to Mr. Shaw he bought the Guy Morse farm and lived there the remainder of his life. He died in 1931 at the age of sixty-eight.

He was married at the time he came to Bridgewater. His family were Gertie, Glen, Eli, Lily, and Etta. Glen, Eli, and Etta (Mrs. Joshua Morse) live in town; Lily (Gallagher) lives in the southern part of the state; and Gertie (Wood) is living in California with her daughters.

Clifford, brother of Frank, came here shortly after Frank. They bought the sawmill at the Center, but after a few years Frank sold his share to Clifford.

Clifford married Jennie Wright. They had three children: Guy, Etta, and Arnold. When Guy grew up, he and his father went into the garage business and later Arnold joined them. They built a large two-story building with the garage on the ground floor and two apartments upstairs. Several years ago this property changed hands. Arnold is living in town, while Guy lives in Topsfield.

1889

Andrew Esty

Another arrival this year was Andrew Esty, who came from Jackson-town, N. B. He bought a farm from Mrs. Bedford Hume of Houlton; this was the original Bedford Hume farm. The buildings were new at the time.

Andrew married Mary Raymond from Middle Simons, N. B. They had eight children, four of them born before the family came to town.

Of these eight, only four are living today: Hattie (Bartlett), Hazel (Rand), Myrtle (Everett), and George (who is living in town).

Andrew retired in 1913 and bought a home in Mars Hill, but lived there only three years, when he returned to the farm.

George married Edith Terrill in 1911 and started farming when his father retired. He bought the farm from his father in 1930. His mother died that year and Mr. Esty lived with George until his death seven years later.

George still owns the farm but his son-in-law, Bernard Kingsbury, lives on the homestead. George lives in his home nearby.

1889

Norman Dickinson

(See West Road.)

1889

Martin S. Rideout

Martin S. Rideout, son of Thomas and grandson of Nathaniel Rideout, was born in Bridgewater but at an early age moved with his parents to East Blaine where he grew up. When a young man he married Annie Gregg of Centerville, N. B., and went to Lewiston where he worked in a shoe shop. He lived there for nine years. Then in 1889 he bought the farm of John Ackerson (now Dan Bradstreet). He first paid taxes on it in 1890. The tax, according to his old account book, was \$7.00 and the insurance was \$8.00.

Martin did not come here to live until March 1891, when they drove a pair of horses hitched to a pung from Lewiston to Bridgewater. The trip took nearly a week. With them they brought a canary bird in a cage which they kept under the robes.

From his ledger, he had on hand April 1, 1891, a farm, for which he paid \$1000; property valued at \$906.94; and \$327.67 in cash to start.

Following are a few items taken from his ledger:

52 bu. oats.	\$25.10	100 lbs. buckwheat	\$1.50
6 bbls. seed potatoes	\$9.75	1 bbl. eating potatoes . . .	\$1.25
Horseshoe	\$0.25	Double harness	\$32.00
3 cows	\$55.00	Ax handle	\$0.12

Some of the groceries are as follows: cream tartar .20 lb., vinegar .09 gal., flour \$7.00 bbl., sugar \$1.00 for 25 lbs., molasses .40 gal. (compare those prices with the prices today).

Following are some of the prices received for items sold: butter .18 lb.; eggs .15 doz.; milk .10 quart; 10 bu. buckwheat \$2.95.

The ledger has the following record for the fall of 1891:

Planted 5 acres potatoes, 15 bu.....	raised 250 bushels
Sowed 32 bu. oats—9 acres.....	raised 227 bushels
Sowed 15 bu. buckwheat—11 acres.....	raised 300 bushels

Martin and Annie had one son, Fred, born January 13, 1895. The mother died shortly afterward. About a year later he married Henrietta Lawrence.

Martin later bought part of the Harding Ackerson farm and after that a wood lot west of his farm from Elmer E. Milliken, making a farm of over two hundred acres. In 1930 he sold the farm to his brother-in-law, C. Edgar Lawrence, who sold it to Dan Bradstreet in 1945.

When Martin was married he could scarcely read his name, having received very little schooling, but under the instruction of his wife, Annie, who had a very good education, he learned to read, write, and figure. He became a great reader, being especially interested in history and geography, and few were the places on the map that he did not know.

Probably there were other men in town in similar positions whom we do not know about. This is simply to show what a man can do who has the desire to learn and the determination to stick to it.

In 1883 he joined the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Lewiston. When he came here there was no lodge in town, so he became a member of the Blaine Lodge, No. 126. It was through the efforts of George Kimball, and John and Martin Rideout that a chapter, known as Central Lodge, I.O.O.F., No. 134, was organized in Bridgewater.

In a Directory of Blaine Lodge, No. 126, printed in 1911, there is a list of Past Grands in which the names of three Bridgewater men appear and the year they were Noble Grands. They are Martin Rideout, 1892; George Kimball, 1893; and John B. Rideout, 1903.

Martin soon became interested in Town affairs. He was Road Commissioner for over twenty-five years, or until the State took over the road-building program. He was on the School Committee 1905 to 1907, Selectman 1905-1906, and was a Trustee of Bridgewater Classical Academy for many years.

He and his wife, Henrietta, became members of the Grange shortly after it was organized; he served as Master a number of times.

Martin and Henrietta had two daughters: Annie, who taught school over twenty-five years, and Bertha (Mrs. James B. Stevens of North Belgrade) with whom Annie is now living.

Fred married Ruby Black of Bloomfield, N. B. They have six children: Clair of New York City; Henrietta (Mrs. Dan Bradstreet); Ralph, at home; Vinca (Condon); Augusta; Helen, a Registered Nurse at the Eastern Maine General Hospital in Bangor; and Earl, U. S. Air Corps, stationed in New Jersey.

Nathaniel Rideout, who came here in 1845, had eighteen children. The only descendants living in town today bearing the Rideout name are Fred and his son, Ralph.

Martin Rideout died in 1931 at the age of seventy-four. His wife died in 1942 at the age of nearly eighty.

1890 Henry Bradstreet

Henry Bradstreet, younger brother of J. Fuller, after attending Houlton Academy clerked in a store in Houlton, then came to Bridgewater where he taught school a few terms, and then built a store (see stores) on the lot where Ralph Milliken is now located. He stayed here until 1900 when he sold to Richard Kimball and went to California to live.

He married Harriet Smith, daughter of Joseph C. Smith Sr.

1891 Boundary Church Dedicated (See Churches)

1891 Howard Lewis

Howard Lewis came here from Smithfield, Maine. For a few years he lived on the Boundary Line road, then moved into town where he became the sexton, an office he held for thirty-eight years. In that time he has dug over six hundred graves, an average of about fifteen a year. Are there any people left in town you ask? Oh, yes! Look at your old town reports and you will see this is about the yearly average of deaths in the town, and the town is slowly growing.

Howard has eight children: Gordon, Effie (Weeks), Hazel (Simonson), Freda (Jamison), Gladys (Cooper), Vaughn, and Avis. All but Vaughn and Freda are living in other parts of the state.

1891

Gideon Hallett

(See West Road.)

1892

Dell Cookson

Two barbers came to town this year, Adelbert Cookson and Moses Jones. These two men had a great deal in common. They were the same age, they came from the same town, New Limerick, they came to Bridgewater at the same time and lastly, both were barbers.

Mr. Jones had a shop near the bridge, where the present barber shop is. Here he barbered about fifteen years, when he died suddenly.

Adelbert Cookson had his shop, first, in the small building north of the A. M. Stackpole store. After Mr. Jones' death, Dell moved his shop into the building that Mr. Jones had occupied. Here he carried on his business until he retired in 1942, after fifty years of continuous business.

He married Sarah Barrett of Tracey's Mills. They had several children. The only one living in town today is their daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Jamison.

Mr. Cookson died in 1950 at the age of ninety. Mrs. Cookson is very smart at the age of ninety-five and has the distinction of being the oldest person in town.

1893

Lowell Brothers

The Lowell Brothers came here in 1893 from Mars Hill. They bought the south corner lot on the now B. & A. Street where they built the present Snow store. They remained in town only a short time. The store passed through several owners until it was purchased, in 1901, by Fred Snow (see stores).

1894

E. B. Morton

Mr. E. B. Morton came on the first train into town to be the first Station Agent, a position he held for over twenty-five years. He then

moved to Mars Hill where he was employed by the railroad over twenty years there. He had been working for the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company before coming to Bridgewater, and at the time of his retirement (about 1940) he had completed over fifty years of service with the Company.

His wife came the following year in February and lived for a time at the Hotel, which at that time was operated by Charles Sanford.

His family were Frances, Jean, George, and Laura. Jean married Harry Simonson; they have one son, Robert, and one granddaughter, Roberta. Frances and Laura are married and live in Massachusetts, and George lives in Presque Isle.

Mr. Morton was a member of Central Lodge, No. 134, and both were members of Crescent Rebekah Lodge, No. 121. They attended the Methodist Church during the time it was in existence, and later belonged to the Methodist Church in Mars Hill, in which they were ardent workers.

Mr. Morton died a few years ago. Mrs. Morton is living with her daughter, Laura, in Massachusetts.

1894 Corner Fire
(See page 131.)

Boundary Fire
(See page 133.)

1894 Town Hall

After the Corner fire the people thought the need of a Town Hall was imperative, so no doubt a special Town Meeting was called. It was probably held in the schoolhouse, that being the largest building in the town. It was voted to build a two-story building large enough for future needs, the second floor to have a lodge room, ante-rooms, dining room, and a kitchen. The contract was given to G. W. Collins, the work to begin immediately.

Since there would now be space available to hold Lodge meetings, many of the Odd Fellows now decided to withdraw from Blaine Lodge and organize a chapter in town, which they did, receiving their charter February 26, 1895. They then bought the second floor of the Hall for \$1,200.

Here the Rebekah Lodge hold their meetings as did the Grange until they closed their doors and gave up their Charter, November 1942. It has also been the meeting place for other organizations that existed for a time.

The first floor has been used for Town Meetings, and for school plays and basketball games before the new high school was built. Town dances and Firemen's Balls and other affairs are held here.

Recently the basement has been remodeled and here the American Legion hold their meetings.

All in all, it has served the town well for nearly sixty years, and no doubt will continue to serve for many years to come.

1894 Bangor and Aroostook Railroad

The long-looked-for railroad came through the town this year (see railroads).

1894 John Delong and William MacKinnon (See West Road.)

1895 Fleetwood Simonson

Fleetwood Simonson came from Centerville, N. B. When he looked at the farm owned by A. W. Briggs on the Snow Road, the farm first bought by Asa Harvey and sold to Otis Turner, Mr. Briggs said he would sell it to him for \$3,600, or sell him one he owned on what is now Hardy Hill in Presque Isle for \$9000. Since all the available cash Mr. Simonson had was \$300, he decided to take the one in Bridgewater. By hard work, early and late, he paid for his farm, gradually improving the land and the buildings.

He had two sons and two daughters: Charles, Jean, Helen, and Harry. All but Harry were born before the family came to town.

When the boys were old enough to look after the farm, Mr. Simonson retired and built a house in town, where Mrs. Simonson still lives.

Charles and Harry farmed together for a number of years, then

Charles bought the John Nelson farm from Joseph Milbury, while Harry had the home place. Today Charles and Harry are among the largest farmers in town, owning farms in various parts of the town.

Besides the Milbury farm Charles has the Al. Chandler farm on the edge of town, the Parsons farm, and the Walter Clark farm. Harry has the homestead, and the James Williams farm on Bunker Hill; he and his son Robert own the Orlo Smith place and the J. P. Hayes place on the Snow Road.

Charles married Annie Lawrence, daughter of John Lawrence; they have one son, Charles Jr.

Jean married Harry Good and lives in the southern part of the state; they have several children.

Helen married Guy Burns and lives in town; they have two daughters, Muriel and Avis, both living in the southern part of the state.

Harry married Jean Morton, daughter of E. B. Morton; they have one son, Robert, and a granddaughter.

1896 Grange Organized

(See Grange, page 135.)

1896 Henry Welch and Guy Morse

(See West Road.)

1897 Mitchell Raymond

Mitchell Raymond was born in Madawaska, Maine, the son of parents who came there direct from France. At an early age he went to Greenville where he learned the carpenter trade. From there he came to Houlton where he worked a few years. Then wanting to be independent he came to Bridgewater and bought a lot of land from Madigan and Pierce on the Packard Road. There were only eight acres cleared when he came, by Moses Cluff. He worked hard, clearing the land, and built a good house and barns. Being a carpenter he did most of the work himself.

The first spring he was here, 1898, he tapped the maple trees on the farm and made quantities of maple syrup, some of which he sold. More of it he gave away.

Mr. Raymond carried on the farm until 1912 when illness prevented further work. This illness left him a helpless invalid, but he remained cheerful and happy in spite of his helplessness.

He belonged to the Catholic Faith, and although living in a town where over 98 per cent were Protestants, he remained a Catholic to the end. His wife died a few years after coming to town and was buried in consecrated ground in a Protestant cemetery—at the Corner. He died at the age of eighty-nine and lies beside his wife.

Coming here with Mr. Raymond and his wife were three daughters and one son: Ada, now Mrs. Charles Murphy; Geneva, Mrs. Dell Fletcher; Edna, Mrs. Lawrence Stitham; and son Adelbert.

After the death of his wife, his youngest daughter, Edna, kept house for him. One summer they lived in town. Every good day Edna would take him out on the porch in his wheel chair where he enjoyed talking with the passers-by. One man who often used to stop to chat was the local minister. One day he said, "Mr. Raymond, why don't you ever come to church?" Mr. Raymond, in his kindly voice, replied, "I am a Catholic." The minister sat a moment then got up and walked away. All the rest of the summer he passed the porch almost daily, but never stopped to chat or even speak to the lonely, crippled man. Which do you think was the real Christian?

Adelbert worked in the tannery until it closed, then took up the carpenter trade, which he still follows. He is also a painter.

Edna and her husband, Lawrence Stitham, operated the farm until a year ago (1952) when they sold it to Chester Sargent and bought the Wilson Estabrooks farm where they operate a dairy farm. They have one son, Wendell. Ada, Geneva, and Adelbert have several children, most of them living elsewhere.

1898

Richard McCleary

(See Monteith Road.)

1900

Edward Dow

Edward Dow came here from Monticello, Maine. He bought a farm on the Corner Road from Orlo Smith. He was married when he came here and had four children. Clara married George Jamison and lives in Mexico, Maine. Laura went to Quebec and married there. Glen mar-

ried Faye Terrill and after her death he married Ida Shaw. Thomas married Nettie Hartley, daughter of Wilmot Hartley. Glen lives in Ridlonville, and Thomas in Etna.

Mr. and Mrs. Dow lived and died on the farm. Then it was taken over by their son Glen who, after a few years, sold it to John Edmunds.

1900

Alvin Stitham

Alvin Stitham came here with his wife and nine children from Canterbury, N. B., where he had been a Fish and Game Warden. Upon coming to Bridgewater he got a position with the Singer Sewing Machine Company, as salesman, a position he held for many years. Then he worked as salesman for various companies selling food products.

Alvin had three sons, Alvin Jr., Sam, and Charles. Alvin Jr. worked for the New England Telephone Company thirty-two years, retiring in 1950. Sam worked for the same company twenty-eight years, retiring in 1948. Charles worked for the Maine Public Service Electric many years, and is now in business for himself in Mars Hill.

Alvin had seven daughters. The youngest, Hazel, was born after he moved here. Of these ten children only two are living in town today, Rose and May (Hall).

1900

William Black

William Black came from Bloomfield, N. B. He bought the Harry Barrett farm, which was the one that Absolem Kimball had lived on. Most of it had been cleared before William bought it. He lived here until 1930, when he sold to Maurice Perfitt. Two years later he bought the farm of his brother-in-law, Fred Nickerson.

William was married before he came here. His wife was Vine Nickerson. They had two sons, Byron and Linwood. Byron has worked for the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad as Station Agent at Fort Fairfield for many years. William makes his home with him. Linwood now lives in Massachusetts.

From Present Owner to First Owner

Now let's try to trace the farms in town from the present owner back to the first owner or settler. Starting at the north end of town, the first farm on the west is now where Allen Kingsbury lives. It was owned by his father, Robert, who bought it from his father-in-law, Thomas Huntington, who first settled here in 1890. He bought it from John Ketchum.

The first farm on the east side of the road is now owned by Woodbury Bearce who bought it from Fred McBurnie. Fred got it from the Edmunds Seed Co. of Boston. Before them it was owned by Harry Whited, who got it from his father, Frederick Whited. This was the original Joseph Ketchum farm. This farm extends from the town line to the Corner of the east, and on the west side from the Kingsbury farm to the Corner.

The first farm below the Corner is now owned by Harry Grant. This was owned by Elmer Fulton, before him by John Fulton, and before that by Joshua Fulton, who cleared it and settled here on this farm in 1840.

The second farm south of the Corner is owned by Donald Kingsbury and his mother, Minona. It was the farm of his father, Roland Kingsbury, who bought it from Thomas Huntington. Thomas bought it from the Nelson heirs whose father, Orin Nelson, came here in 1840. This farm is on both sides.

The next farm, both sides of the road, is owned by Dan Bradstreet, who bought it from C. Edgar Lawrence, who got it from Martin S. Rideout. Martin bought the south half from John Ackerson. Dan bought the north half from the heirs of Harding Ackerson, whose father owned this whole farm in 1850.

The farm of Chester Sargent was owned by his father, Howard, who bought it from Doran Gray. Before that it was owned by Harry Barrett, and before him it was owned by Charles Bradstreet. It was first owned by Dennis Nelson, who came here with Orin in 1840.

The farm of Perry Carmichael was owned by his father, Joseph Carmichael, who bought it from John Sargent. Previous to that it had a number of owners for a short time. It was originally owned by G. W. Collins.

This takes us to the village. Now below the village is the farm of Frank McKeen, which has been in the family since 1860 when John McKeen came here. This farm is on the west side of the road.

The next farm, west side, is owned by Joseph Smith. This has been in the Smith family since 1852. This farm was a double lot, as was the

McKeen farm, each lot containing 120 acres. The McKeen farm is the first one in the Portland Academy Grant.

The first farm going up Bunker Hill is owned by Lewis Finnemore. This was the place of Robert Brown, who got it from George Pennington.

The next farm is now owned by Harry Simonson, who bought it from H. M. Kimball. This was the George Williams farm.

The next farm is owned by the Slipp boys. It was the farm of Bert Slipp, who bought it from George London, whose father, John, came here in 1844.

The farm owned by John Kimball was owned by his father, Fred, who got it from his father, John. It was originally the William Lawrence farm. This farm is at the top of the hill on the west side.

William Scott owns the farm on the south side of the hill. It has been in the Scott family since 1882, and was bought from Charles and Gene Bradstreet as a wood lot.

Frank Slipp and Lewis Finnemore own the next few lots, which are wood lots.

Clair Allen has the next two lots. This was the farm of his mother, who had it after her husband's death, and it was settled by Guy's father, George Allen, about 1860. This farm is on both sides of the road.

The last farm in the town is owned by Robert Harding. It was owned by Mrs. Harding's mother, Mrs. Elva Williams, before that it was the farm of Mrs. Williams' father, Doris Ackerson, who bought it from Richard Kimball. Richard bought it from George Stewart. This farm, also, is on both sides of the road.

Now to get back to the village, the first farm on the east side is owned by Charles Simonson. Going back, it was formerly owned by Ray Yerxa, William Whited, Edwin McBurnie, Mrs. Parsons, Christopher Bradbury, Joseph Smith, and David Foster.

The first farm below the Snow Road is owned by Joseph C. Smith and has been in the family since 1852. The south part of the farm was at one time the farm of Thomas Durgin.

The first farm across the swamp and part way up the hill is now owned by Ralph Terrill. This was the farm of C. Edgar Lawrence, who bought it from George Pennington. It had previously been owned by Gideon Kinney.

The farm at the top of the hill is now owned by Byron Lawrence. It was the farm of his father, John Lawrence, who bought it from Oliver Rideout.

Kenneth Parks owns the next farm. This was the Hiram Kimball farm. Hiram's father, George, bought from Jason Russell.

Frank Slipp has the next place which was owned by his father, J. Howard Slipp, and his father, Samuel Slipp.

Now let's go back to the Corner Road, the north side starting with the farm under the hill. This was half a lot. It was owned by Howard Jamison, George Barrett, and J. H. Collins.

The next farm is owned by Wendell Pierce. It was the Maurice Perfitt, William Black, and then Absolem Kimball farm. Absolem came here in 1852.

The next two farms are today the John Edmunds farms. The one just below the railroad track was originally owned by J. H. Collins. The second one was the Edward Dow place. He bought from Orlo Smith, who got it from Samuel Hartley. This was a half-lot. The next farm, also Edmunds, was the Den Barrett place owned by his father, Edward, who bought it from J. H. Collins.

Bradbury Brothers come next. This was owned by Fred Nickerson, Charles Bradstreet, Albert Chandler, and Charles Kidder.

George Esty has the next farm which he bought from his father, Andrew, who bought it from Mrs. Bedford Hume. This is the farm he bought from Nicholas Rideout in 1860.

Ray Yerxa has the farm of William Whited, who bought it from George Freeman, who bought from Nathaniel Rideout. This was the farm that Joseph Ketchum first settled on in 1831.

Fred Whited owns all the farms around the Boundary, the ones of Hamilton Farley and Nathaniel Bradstreet.

Corner Road, south side. The farm now owned by Bernard Smith was the Charles Smith Farm.

Beyond the railroad track is the John Edmunds farm. The first lot is mostly wood lot; the second lot was bought from William Black, who bought from Fred Nickerson. Before that sometime, it was owned by G. W. Collins. Then comes the farm that was the Barrett farm.

The next farm is the Bradbury Brothers', which is the same as the north side.

Fred Cook owns the next farm, which belonged to his father, Thomas Cook, who bought it in 1870 from Samuel Kidder.

Thomas Cook now owns the farm that was first settled by Cyrus Chandler. This brings us to the Fred Whited farm, the last one on the road.

Now let's go to the Snow Road. These farms changed hands so many times it may be hard to trace them all without a search of all the old deeds. The ones on the north and south corners of the road have been mentioned before.

The second farm from the Corner is now owned by Harry and Robert

Simonson. It was originally the J. P. Hayes farm, and Orlo Smith farm.

The farm of Earl Kingsbury was the Edmund Hayes farm.

The Burns farm, which has been in the family since it was first settled, comes next.

The Bert Nelson farm was also a Burns farm.

Jessica Sargent has the one that her husband, Percy, bought from his father, Joseph Sargent.

Harry Simonson's farm changed hands a number of times in the early years; it was originally the Otis Turner farm.

Sam Hartley has the Buckley farm, originally the Berry Brothers' farm, the Edward and Thomas Snow farms, and the Jerry Turner farm.

On the south side of the road is Robert Simonson's farm which was the Orlo Smith farm.

Earl Kingsbury's place has been mentioned before.

Ferdinand Bradstreet has the Charles Simonson farm. This was owned by Joseph Milbury, which was originally the John Nelson place.

Ralph Stockpole has the farm of his grandfather, Augustus Stackpole Sr., who bought it from Jason Russell.

Howard Nelson has the farm first settled by Nelson Cain.

Carroll Sharp has the Isaac Durgin farm, which was his father's. This was first cleared some by Joseph Sargent.

Many changes have been made in the other farms, so no attempt will be made to trace them. Other farms are still owned by descendants of the original owners.

Settlers on Monteith Road

Previous to 1877 there were only seven families on this road. The first farm on the north side of the road was a half-lot which was owned by Perl Tapley, who cleared part of it and sold it to Eugene Monteith. Mr. Monteith owned the next half-lot which he cleared and where he lived all his life. It is from this farm that the road gets its name. These two pieces of land are now owned by Edward Buckley.

The second lot, north side, was owned by Joseph Ricker who came from St. Stephen, N. B. Living on a corner of the farm was a J. Jewell and across the road lived W. Jewell. These two men did not own farms. Probably they worked for Mr. Ricker and Mr. George London, who had the second lot on the south side of the road across from the Ricker farm.

The third lot on the south side was owned by Rideout. No information could be obtained about him.

(The above list of farms is taken from an old map printed in 1877.)

Frederick Ritter

In the year 1877 several men came to the Monteith settlement and took up farms on the eastern part of the road. They were Frederick Ritter, Stephen Nichols and his son Edward, Charles Lewis, and William Reid.

In order to know more about some of these men we shall have to go back to 1843. In that year there lived in London, England, a lad named Frederick Adolphus Ritter, who lived with a wealthy aunt who had fond hopes for his future; but Frederick had plans of his own, so he ran away and came to Bae Chaleur, N. B., in the summer of 1844. That winter he worked in the lumber camps and the following summer he came to Good's Corner, Carleton County, N. B. He settled there and made a fine farm from the wilderness. He married Anita Carmichael, and to them were born three sons—William J., Albert Bunyan, Frederick Adolphus Jr. (known as Dolph); and five daughters—Janice, Alice, Elizabeth, Annie, and Ruth.

When Frederick came here in 1877 he chose the farm nearest to the border on the north side of the road. Again he hewed a farm from the wilderness. Part of it he cleared and built a large set of buildings, the lumber coming from the farm. The rest he left for wood and lumber.

Later he bought a farm two miles to the west, from George London, and deeded to his son Dolph. Before his death in 1893 he deeded his farm to his son, William.

Dolph tore down the buildings that Mr. London had built far back from the road and built a large set nearer the road. Most of the farm was woods when he bought it, so this had to be cleared. It is owned today by his daughter and her husband, Alma and Jack Allen.

Adolphus Sr.'s daughter Elizabeth married Edward Nichols. Ruth married John Lawrence and Alice married Eugene Monteith, son of David Monteith. The rest of his family preferred the Province of New Brunswick, so returned there to live.

1877

Charles Lewis

Charles Lewis took a lot of wild land south of Mr. Ritter's. This he cleared and made into a very good farm. In 1898 he sold the west half of his farm to Richard McCleary. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are now dead and the family are living in other parts of the country.

1877

Edward Nichols

Edward Nichols came here from Good's Corner, N. B., desiring to settle and make a home. Being only eighteen years of age he could not get a title to the land, so his father bought the land from the state. Three years later, when Edward was twenty-one, his father deeded the land to him.

Edward built a small house and cleared the land, using oxen to do most of the work. Later on he raised his own fine horses, many of which he sold. After he married Elizabeth Ritter he built an addition onto the front part of the house and a shed on the back.

Mr. Nichols worked from dawn to dark clearing his farm and raising horses and cattle, and in a few years, he was able to buy the Reid farm on the west and an adjoining woodlot.

A schoolhouse had been built in the district on part of the George London farm, but burned in 1887. The next year, 1888, Mr. Nichols took the contract to build it for \$400, and out of that he had to hire the carpenter to do the building (that amount would hardly buy lumber to build a pig pen today but shows how far a dollar would go in those days).

Mr. Nichols had two children, David and Ada (Kilcollins). Ada lives on the homestead in the original house built by her father, while David lives on the Reid farm.

1877

William Reid

William Reid came here from the same place as the three men mentioned above and took up the third lot from the Boundary on the north side of the road. He cleared some of it and later sold it to Edward Nichols. The Reid boys who live in town today are his descendants.

Sewell Baston

About this time Sewell Baston came from Ripley, Maine, and took a lot of wild land, the third lot from the Boundary, south side of road. At first he lived in a log house, but as he got his land cleared he built a frame house and barns. He was a Civil War Veteran.

He had three children: Henry, Eldora, and Harry. Eldora died when eleven years old; Harry moved to Oakfield.

Henry lived on the homestead until his death in 1939. He had one son, Charles, who lives in town. Several daughters are living in Massachusetts.

John Brewer

John Brewer came here from Woodstock, N. B., and took up a farm next east of Joe Ricker. He was a carpenter by trade and helped the other settlers build their houses.

Henry Hodgedon

Henry Hodgedon, a Civil War Veteran, had the farm east of John Brewer. Where he came from is not known today.

The next lot east of the Brewer place was a wood lot owned by G. W. Collins. This completes the lots on the north side of the road.

Thomas Burpee

Thomas Burpee, probably from Canada, had the lot west of the Baston farm. The next lot to the west was owned by G. W. Collins.

Rodney Parks

Rodney Parks, who had owned the Buckley farm on the Snow Road, sold it and bought the Brewer farm on the Monteith Road, which he

finished clearing. He then bought a lot on the south side of the road. His sons, George, Henry, Ray, and Warren, were a great help to him in clearing these farms.

Theodore Parks, a brother of Rodney's, bought the lot across the road from the Hodgedon farm.

George, son of Rodney, then bought the Joseph Ricker farm, and in 1921 he bought the first lot on the south side of the road.

1898

Richard McCleary

In April of this year Richard McCleary and his brother Thomas came from Bloomfield, N. B. They were of Irish descent. Their early ancestors left Ireland because of the low wages paid there. Hearing of the high wages paid in America and Canada and the ease with which one could obtain property on this side of the water they migrated to Canada. Richard bought the east half of the Charles Lewis farm.

He was married when he came here and had seven children, only two of whom are in town today—Lester and Richard Jr. Hettie lived here for some time, but now lives in Oakfield.

From Present to Original Owners

Now let's go back and trace these farms on Monteith Road from the present owners back to the first settlers. It might be of interest to note that the lots in this part of town, the Portland Academy Grant, are 120 acres, while those in the north part of town, in the Bridgewater Academy Grant, are 160 acres.

Beginning at the west end of the road, north side, the farms are owned by the following people:

Edward Buckley, who came from Westfield, owns the first one, the Eugene Monteith farm. This was first settled by Perl Tapley who had the west half-lot and David Monteith who had the east half-lot.

The second farm is now owned by Albert Allen, who bought it from George Parks. Before him it was owned by Joseph Ricker. This was a whole lot.

The third farm, a whole lot, is owned by Reuben Grass; before him by Rodney Parks and John Brewer.

The fourth farm is now owned by Ferdinand Bradstreet. This was the Henry Hodgedon farm, which changed hands several times before coming into the possession of Mr. Bradstreet.

David Nichols has the next two lots. The first one was owned by Edward Nichols, who bought it, a woodlot, from G. W. Collins. The second lot was owned by Edward Nichols, who bought it from William Reid. It is on this lot that Mr. Nichols lives.

The seventh lot is now the home of Fred Kilcollins, whose wife is Ada Nichols. This farm was the original Edward Nichols homestead.

The eighth and ninth lots are now owned by Erwin Lawrence. This was the William Ritter farm which his father settled in 1877. This is a double lot.

This completes the north side of the road. There are nine lots on the road.

Starting at the west end of the road on the south side, the first farm is owned by George Parks and his son Kenneth. He bought it from George Carmichael, but it was originally owned by John Monteith.

The second farm is now owned by Milton Allen. His wife was Alma Ritter, daughter of Dolph Ritter who owned the farm which was bought from George London.

The third lot is Reuben Grass' farm which, according to a map made by George Parks and David Nichols, is identified as the farm that John and William Jewell settled. According to a map printed in 1877, these two men lived on the corner of the Ricker farm and on the London farm. Be that as it may, it is today the Grass farm.

The fourth farm is owned by Gordon Parks, a grandson of Theodore Parks who first settled the farm. At Theodore's death it went to his son Lafayette, then Lafayette's son Theodore II, and now to Gordon.

The fifth lot is the Hazen Bridges farm. This was owned by G. W. Collins at one time.

The sixth lot is now the farm of Paul Kilcollins. This was the Thomas Burpee farm. Paul also owns half of the Sewell Baston farm, which is the seventh lot. The other half of the Baston lot is owned by Fred Kilcollins, father of Paul.

The eighth and ninth lots are owned by Richard McCleary Jr. whose father, Richard Sr., bought the east half of the Charles Lewis farm. A few years ago Richard Jr. bought the rest of the Charles Lewis farm, making it again a double lot as it was originally.

This completes the south side of the road. It is hoped by tracing these farms from the present owners back to the original owners a clearer picture may be had of where the early settlers had their lots of land.

Settlers on West Road

This road was built on the line between the Bridgewater Academy Grant and the Portland Academy Grant and runs from the center of town to the town line on the west. Today the road has been extended across D Plantation for lumbering operations and is passable for automobiles, whereas a few years ago it was simply a woods road.

Most of the wild land in the Portland Academy Grant, south side of the road, was owned by George Pennington, while that in the Bridgewater Academy Grant, north side of the road, was almost all owned by G. W. Collins.

1880

Wilson Estabrook

The first settler on this road was Wilson Estabrook who came from Canada and bought five hundred acres of wild land from George Pennington for two dollars an acre. Part of it he cleared and some he sold to new settlers as they came in. By much hard work he cleared much of his farm, even to most of a hill on the back part of the farm, which he used for pasture. This hill was a landmark known for many years, and may still be called "Wilses" hill. He built a substantial set of buildings, most of the time living alone, as he was never married.

1889

Norman Dickinson

Norman Dickinson bought a lot of wild land from G. W. Collins, which he cleared into a nice farm and on which he built a good set of buildings. One day his wife sent the daughter to empty out some ashes. She dumped them at the side of the shed. The wind was blowing and soon a blaze started, which, before they realized it, had gotten beyond control and the buildings were burned to the ground. That summer they slept in the barn while the new house was being erected. Sometime in the early 1900's Mr. Dickinson sold his farm to H. G. Stackpole and moved away.

1889

Frank Sharp

Frank Sharp came here and bought a lot of land back from the road along the stream. He later bought the lot along the road, which he sold to Elisha Shaw, and bought the Guy Morse farm in 1920 (see complete story of Frank Sharp on page 61).

1889

Gideon Hallett

Gideon Hallett came about this time with his wife and two sons, Witford and Charles, and two daughters, Deborah (Morse) and Clara (Clark). Mrs. Clark is the only one of these children living today.

For sometime he lived on the Dickinson place, then he bought a small lot of land from Pennington, which he afterward sold.

Witford married Annie McKeen, daughter of John McKeen. Their children were Vine, John, Charles, Evelyn, and Clara. All are living in town.

1894

McKinnon Family

William MacKinnon came here in 1894. His father was a Scotsman, born in Scotland, where he was a sheep farmer, but when a young man he migrated to the Scotch settlement at Stanley, N. B. Here he was married and here he raised his family. Somewhere down the years the "a" has been dropped from the Mac and it is spelled today "McKinnon."

William bought a lot of wild land from G. W. Collins on the West Road. It was practically all woods which he cleared into a fine farm. The nearest neighbor was Wilson Estabrook on the west, nearly a mile away, and Norman Dickinson a mile to the east. Between these two houses was dense woods.

The family of Newell Bear, an Indian, lived in a camp near the brook. Sometimes Newell came to the McKinnon home, but if William was not at home he would not enter for he knew that Mrs. McKinnon was afraid of him. In fact she was more afraid of strangers than she

was of bears, of which there were plenty in those days. If she saw a strange man coming up the road she would gather her children together and hide until the stranger had passed the house.

(It might be of interest to know that Newell Bear lived to reach the age of 107 before he died. At least that is according to his reckoning, and people did not doubt him. He was a very old man, and had sons who were old men.)

Mr. McKinnon was married before coming here to live and most of his family were born before the family came here. His family were Ernest, who is dead; Dora (Blake), who lives with her father; Bruce, Dawn, and Annie living in Houlton; Violet (McKeen); and Earl, the youngest, who lives on the homestead.

During the summer months Mr. McKinnon cleared his farm and planted his crops, and for nine winters he worked in the lumber woods for E. E. Milliken.

A few years ago he bought the old schoolhouse which was on his farm and remodeled it into a very comfortable home where he lives with his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Blake.

Three of William's brothers, Thomas, Neil, and David, came to town a few years later. Although they did not live on the West Road, they will be included in the McKinnon family. They all worked for E. E. Milliken, either in the woods or at the sawmill.

Thomas had charge of the woods crews for many years. After Mr. Milliken stopped lumbering, Thomas moved to Houlton to live. He married Edith McDonald, sister of Cyrus. They had three sons and five daughters, none of them living in town.

David also moved to Houlton. He married Clara Webber; they had two daughters and one son.

Neil married Jane McKinnon, his cousin, and they had four sons and three daughters. The oldest, Percy, owns the Herman McIntire farm on the Boundary Road. Some of the others live in town.

1894

Frank Kimball

Although Frank Kimball was born in town, the son of Absolem Kimball, he moved to the West Road in the year 1894, having bought a small farm from Pennington, the first farm beyond the village on the south side of the road (see Kimballs.)

Shortly after moving here he found out that Will McKinnon had

come to his farm on the same day and, strange as it may seem, they were also married on the same day and for many years Mr. Kimball and Mr. McKinnon celebrated one of the events, at one home or the other.

1894

John Delong

John Delong came from Lansdown, N. B., and bought a lot of wild land next to the last lot on the road, north side, from G. W. Collins. By hard work and with the help of his nine sons he was able to clear a nice farm. He sold the farm a few years before his death to Guy Twitchell. He was married to Isa McDonald. Their nine sons are Goffery, Arthur, Charles, Frank, Wellington, Jasper, Harold, Otis, and Merle. There are three daughters: Viola, who married Eli Sharp, now deceased; Arvella, wife of Charles Hallett; and Nellie, living in New York City.

1894

George Pryor

George Pryor moved here and bought a farm from Pennington. He lived here about twenty-five years, then sold and moved to town to live. His children are Ellie and Pauline. The farm is now owned by Raymond Cullins.

1896

Henry Welch

Henry and Joseph Welch, brothers, came from Bradford, Maine, where they had been working in the tannery. They immediately got jobs in the tannery in town and bought farms on the West Road.

Henry bought the Connley farm from R. J. Kimball, who had taken it over after Connley left, and also land from Pennington. There was a log house on the place and a few acres cleared. Henry tore down the log house and built a large frame house and barns, and spent most of his life clearing the farm.

He married Gertrude Stackpole of Monticello, Maine. They had two sons, Bernard and Forest.

Forest and his father farmed together until the latter's death, after which Forest managed it alone. He married Roxie Murphy, who died a few years ago leaving two daughters. He then sold the farm to Paul Kilcollins, and now works at the State Experiment Farm at Presque Isle. Bernard lives in town.

1897

Joseph Welch

The next year Joseph bought a farm from Pennington. There was no land cleared, so the first thing he had to do was to clear land for a house and barns. The rest of his life he spent his time and energy in clearing his farm.

He married Priscilla Scott. They had three children, Walter, Guy, and Lena. Walter and his father operated the farm together until Joseph died, and then Walter carried on alone. Walter died a few years ago. The farm is now owned by Ben Brooker.

Walter married Zella Dickinson; they had several children. One daughter, Madeline, married Ferdinand Bradstreet and lives in town. Guy and Lena live in Massachusetts.

1897

Guy Morse

Although Guy Morse was born in Bridgewater he did not come to the West Road to live until 1897 when he bought a lot of land from Wilson Estabrook. He kept this farm five years, then sold it to William Webber and moved to Seattle, Washington. In 1909 he returned and bought another lot from the Charles Bradstreet estate, which he sold to Frank Sharp and moved to Massachusetts in 1920.

1900

Elisha Shaw

Elisha Shaw bought the Frank Sharp farm by the brook this year. He had a large family of boys and two daughters. Mrs. Shaw is still

living. She is over ninety years of age and very smart. She lives with her daughter, Mrs. Henry Hartley.

1901

William Webber

William Webber bought the Guy Morse farm in 1901. After his death it was carried on by his son John Webber. He also had a son, Henry, and two daughters, Bertha and Hannah. The boys are now dead and the girls live in other parts of the state.

1903

Pennington McKeen

Pennington McKeen, son of John McKeen, bought a farm from Pennington, which he cleared. His son Lewis lives on the farm with his mother. Lewis married Violet McKinnon, and they have two sons.

There are a few other settlers who came to this road, there was a man named Connley who settled on the Henry Welch farm, but nothing is known about him today.

The farm east of the Dickinson place was called the Prosser farm. No information could be obtained about Mr. Prosser.

Some of the others have been mentioned in other parts of the book: Finnemores, Kinneys, and McNinches. Many have homes on the road, but do not own farms.

From Present Owner to First Owner

Let us now trace the owner of each farm on West Road back to the first owner. Starting on the south side of the road at the eastern end, the first farm is now owned by Charles Simonson. This was formerly the Frank Kimball farm.

Walter Clark and Charles Finnemore own the next two small farms.

Lewis McKeen lives on the farm first settled by his father, Pennington McKeen.

Paul Kilcollins now owns the Forest Welch farm which his father cleared and settled. This was first owned by a Mr. Connley.

Raymond Cullins has the farm that was cleared by George Pryor.

Next is a wood lot that is owned by "Doss" Morse, which he bought from Pennington.

Ben Brooker owns the Walter Welch farm which his father, Joseph Welch, cleared from virgin forest.

Austin Kinney lives on his father's farm, which his father, Gilbert Kinney, bought from Albert Chandler.

Lawrence Stitham owns the Wilson Estabrook farm, the first to be settled on the road in 1880.

Mr. McClain has the John Webber farm. His father, William, bought it from Guy Morse, who bought it from Wilson Estabrook.

Guy Twitchell has the farm that was owned by Dalbecks, who got it from Asa H. Bradstreet, who bought it from George Cole.

This completes the south side of the road. Now let's start at the eastern end of the road again on the north side.

The first farm is owned by Ralph Stackpole, who got it from his father, H. G. Stackpole. This is the farm that was known as the Prosser place.

The second farm is now owned by Perry Carmichael. This was also owned by H. G. Stackpole and was originally the Norman Dickinson farm.

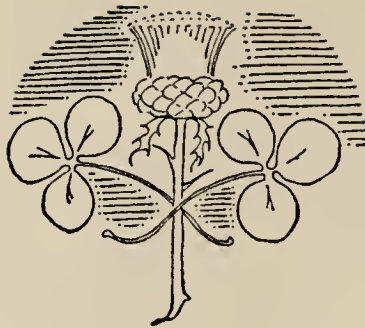
The third farm is that of Ray Yerxa. Before him it was owned by Harold Beals, Elisha Shaw, and Frank Sharp.

Lloyd McKinnon has the next place, which was known as the James Gray place.

Earl McKinnon lives on his father's farm. William McKinnon lives on the farm also, at the top of the hill.

The next farm is also owned by Guy Twitchell. This was the John Delong farm.

The last farm on the road is that of Joshua "Doss" Morse, which was owned by his wife's father, Frank Sharp, who bought it from Guy Morse.



Important Individuals and Organizations

Judge Nathaniel Tompkins

Judge Nathaniel Tompkins, son of Nathaniel and Emma Sargent Tompkins, was born in Bridgewater May 17, 1879. He graduated from Ricker Classical Institute, Houlton, in 1898, from Colby College in 1903, and from Harvard Law School in 1907. He did not have much money for his college education, so he worked his way through school.

He married Ragnhild Iverson of Portage Lake, Maine, in 1913. They had one daughter, Miss Sigred Tompkins, who is now a practicing lawyer in Portland, Maine.

He practiced law in Houlton where he became Judge of Superior Court. He served as Representative and Senator in the Maine State Legislature. He was Speaker of the House and became President of the Senate.

Judge Tompkins finally attained the highest position a lawyer may hold in the state, that of Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine.

He traced his ancestry to the early settlers of the town, his paternal grandfather having been Samuel Tompkins, who came here in 1850. His paternal grandmother was Sally Rideout, daughter of Nathaniel Rideout, who came here in 1845. His maternal grandfather was Joseph Sargent, who came here in 1854.

Veterans of World War I

Beckim, Arthur E.	McKinnon, Ernest J.
Brown, Waldo E.	McIntyre, Beecher F.
Bulley, Beecher	McNinch, Daniel
Bulley, Vernal R.	McNinch, Harrison
Dobson, Edgar	McNinch, Harvey
Dow, Glenwood	McNinch, Howard
Esty, Elwood	McNinch, Roy
Esty, Horace	Milliken, Charles M.
Farley, Albert C.	Milliken, William L.
Green, John	Parks, Theodore F.
Hallett, Charles W.	Putnam, Ervin E.
Hume, Col. Frank M.	Sanderson, Arthur G.
Kilcollins, Fred	Seeley, Forest
Kilcollins, Ira R.	Shaw, Archie
Kimball, Richard J.	Shaw, James E.
Kingsbury, Bedford H.	Slipp, Francis
Kingsbury, Fred	Stiles, George
Kingsbury, Sandy	Welch, Guy
McKeen, Lewis A.	Whited, Ernest A.
	Whited, Fred F.

The following veterans served in the Canadian Army:

Bragg, Percy	Kilcollins, Charles	Porter, Ralph
Clark, Elvin	McDonald, John C.	Tracey, Clarence
Kilcollins, Amasa	Plourde, Fred	Niles, Beecher

Veterans of World War II

Brigadier General C. M. Milliken

Allen, Gordon	DeLong, Russell
Bean, Curtis	DeLong, Wellington
Bean, Herbert	Delbeck, Oscar
Belyea, Hayden	Dyer, Winslow
Benner, Phillip	Edmunds, John, Jr.
Berquist, Albert	Farley, Edwin
Blake, Max	Fletcher, Stanley
Boyd, George, Jr.	Fullerton, David
Bradbury, Elden	Gardiner, Perley
Bradbury, Leon	Gee, Robert
Bradbury, Gerald	Green, Merle
Bradstreet, Augustus	Hallett, Ashley
Bradstreet, Frank	Harding, Robert
Bradstreet, John	Hartley, Ralph
Bradstreet, Warren	Holmes, Glenwood
Bruce, Lawrence	Hotham, Horrace
Bruce, Lloyd	Jamison, Eddie
Brewer, Floyd	Jamison, Jack
Brewer, Gerald	Keegan, Ernest
Brewer, Herman	Kimball, Charles
Brewer, Merrill	Kinney, Elmer
Brewer, Rex	Kinney, John Henry
Brooks, Byron	Kinney, Ralph
Bulley, Vernal	Kirkpatrick, Dana
Burt, Clayton	Larmer, James
Chase, George	Lawrence, Donald
Chase, Ralph	Lewis, Max
Corey, Glenwood	Lewis, Merle
DeLong, Charles	Lewis, Vaughn
DeLong, Leo	

Lynch, Charles
Malley, Harold
McCleary, Austin
McCleary, Clarence
McCleary, Willis
McDonald, David
McDonald, Leon
McKeen, Elwood
McKeen, William
McKinnon, John, Jr.
McKinnon, Kenneth
McNinch, Cecil
McNinch, Garfield
Miller, Joe
Millier, Patrick
Milliken, Dana
Milliken, Leighton
Mooney, Richard
Morse, Elmer
Morse, Max
Murphy, Edgar
Murphy, Errol
Murphy, Ira
Nelson, Fred
Nelson, Guy
Nelson, Llewellyn
Nelson, Merrill
Niles, Earl
Niles, Laurel
O'Neil, Alvin

O'Neil, Fred
O'Neil, Gerald
Packard, Albert
Packard, David
Parks, Charles
Parks, Shirley
Prest, Eugene
Raymond, Delbert
Raymond, Merrill
Rideout, Clair
Rideout, Ralph
Roberts, Merton
Scott, Bertt
Sharp, Frank
Sharp, John
Shaw, Carl
Shaw, Charles
Shaw, Floyd
Shaw, James, Jr.
Smith, Charles
Smith, Ollie
Stackpole, Maurice
Taylor, Clair
Tidd, Kenneth
Turner, Leslie
Turner, Stetson
Wallace, Linton
Weeks, Eugene
Weeks, Ralph
Whited, Harris

Girls in the service:

Barnette, Evelyn, WAVE

Bradstreet, Velma, R.N.

Baston, Betty, WAC

Burns, Alta, R.N.

Harvey, Muriel, WAC

Colonel Frank M. Hume

Colonel Frank M. Hume, the son of Bedford Hume from Woodstock and Lottie Kidder, was the commander of the old 2nd Maine Infantry and of the 103rd Infantry in World War I. He is a native of Bridgewater, Maine, born January 7, 1867, and a resident in April 1917 of Houlton.

He served overseas from September 25, 1917, to April 7, 1919, being discharged May 21, 1919, at Camp Devans, Massachusetts.

He participated in the following engagements: Chemin des Dames, Toul Sector, Second Battle of the Marne, St. Mihiel drive, Argonne-Meuse offensive.

Colonel Hume suffered from shell concussion on February 28, 1918, in the Chemin des Menes fight, and suffered loss of hearing in one ear. He received on June 16, 1918, the decoration of the French Croix de Guerre and D.S.C.

Previous to the World War he served in the National Guard, being commissioned captain in the 2nd Maine Infantry April 2, 1894, and assigned to Company L; commissioned Major on June 7, 1897; commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel on July 14, 1903; commissioned Colonel on July 17, 1910. He served during the War with Spain as Captain of Battery B, 1st Battalion, Heavy Artillery, Maine Volunteers, from June 29, 1898, to March 31, 1899, and as Colonel he commanded the 2nd Maine Infantry during its services on the Mexican Border from June 19, 1916, to October 25, 1916.

Some time after the war he served as Collector of Customs at the Port of Portland.

Brigadier General C. M. Milliken U.S. Army, Retired

Charles Morton Milliken, son of Elmer E. and Bertha (Lawrence) Milliken, was born in Bridgewater, August 4, 1888. After finishing grade school and one year at Bridgewater Classical Academy, he entered Ricker Classical Institute, Houlton, in the fall of 1904. Like other boys he was interested in hunting, fishing, and athletics. He was captain and shortstop on the baseball team, quarterback on the football

team and manager of the basketball team, and president of his class. He graduated in 1907.

He attended U. S. Military Academy at West Point, from which he was graduated in the class of 1914. While there he played on the baseball team and was captain of the team his senior year.

Upon graduation he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and was stationed with the 30th Infantry in San Francisco, California. In 1915 his regiment was transferred to Plattsburg Barracks in New York, where he served as an instructor in General Wood's first Businessmen's Camp.

It was while he was here that he met Frances Painter from Tennessee, who was visiting her sister. She became his wife in September 1916. To them were born three children, Morton E., William Seth, and Jane Frances.

He served in World War I in France and Germany. He graduated from Command and General Staff School and was retained four years as instructor. From there he went to the Army War College, and then became Director of Signal Corps School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, from 1937-1940. He was Chief Signal Officer, 6th Army Corps, 1941. Then he did a one year tour in Washington.

In 1943 he was in command of the Training Center, Camp Crowder, Missouri. Following this he spent some time in the Pacific Theater. His next assignment, after V. E. Day, was Commanding General of Training Center at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

C. M. Milliken passed through all the grades from 2nd Lieutenant to Brigadier General. He received the Legion of Merit with the Oak Leaf Cluster (which means two Legions of Merits), besides numerous Service Ribbons and Battle Stars.

When he was in command at Camp Crowder, Missouri, he gave a Christmas Message, which he had printed on the dinner menus, and received a letter from one of his privates in reply. Of the many letters of commendation which Brig. General Milliken has received he says this letter is one he prizes most.

The Message and the letter are printed below:

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1943

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD IN
ANY LANGUAGE IS THE WORD - SERVICE. CIVILIZATION

ITSELF HAS BEEN DEFINED AS THE ABILITY OF HUMAN KIND TO COOPERATE. THE CONDITION OF OUR WORLD TODAY PROVES THAT WE HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTOOD THIS GREAT TRUTH. HOWEVER, THE VERY FACT THAT THERE ARE STILL POWERFUL NATIONS WILLING TO FIGHT, SUFFER, AND DIE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, IS EVIDENCE THAT THE INSPIRED MEANING OF SERVICE HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY LOST. THIS HOPEFUL FACT WILL BECOME CLEARER AND MORE APPRECIATED AS OUR PRESENT CONFLICT IS INTENSIFIED. AFTER THIS WAR IS OVER, WITH THE HIDEOUS ENEMY OF MANKIND DESTROYED, PEACE WILL AGAIN REIGN IN THE WORLD BUT THERE WILL STILL BE NO PERMANENT ADVANCEMENT OF CIVILIZATION UNTIL THE PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE, HOPEFULNESS, AND HONESTY, INFLUENCE OUR INDIVIDUAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

LET US, IN THE PRESENT EMERGENCY, BE TRUE TO THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST; LET US, THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS, BE LEADERS, NOT FOLLOWERS; LET US BRING THE TRUE IDEAL OF SERVICE INTO OUR OWN LIVES NOW, AS AN AID IN HELPING TO MEET OUR DAILY PROBLEMS; IN THIS WAY WE CAN INSURE EARLY VICTORY IN THE PRESENT LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE AND CAN BUILD A SOUND, JUST, AND HAPPY WORLD IN THE DAYS TO COME.

TO EVERY OFFICER, CADREMAN, TRAINEE AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THIS COMMAND, I DESIRE AT THIS TIME TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE LOYALTY, INDUSTRY AND WILLING COOPERATION WHICH HAS MADE THE YEAR 1943 SO SUCCESSFUL FOR THE REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER. WHEREVER YOU MAY SERVE IN 1944, YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS, SAFETY, HAPPINESS AND PROMOTION.

C. M. MILLIKEN
BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S.A.
Commanding.

Following is the letter he received:
U.S. Army

Christmas Day, 1943

C. M. Milliken,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Commanding,
C.S.C.R.T.C.,
Camp Crowder, Mo.

Dear General Milliken:

If it is a violation of the military properties for a very lowly private to wire a General in sincere appreciation for his Christmas Message, I trust the breach may be pardoned this one time.

I'm new here, but your "Christmas Dinner Menu" message was re-assuring reminder that I belong here, among men who have a common bond.

With your permission, I hope to obtain extra copies of the menu with your message, which emphasizes the dignity of man with forceful simplicity.

I want to send these copies to some erstwhile Washington colleagues who sometimes speak too loosely of the so-called "Authoritarian mind" of Army Officers.

A Happy Christmas, Sir,

Respectfully yours,
/s/ Maurice Feuerlicht

ASN 42952571
Co. A-28th Sig. Tng. Bn.
Bar. 1577
CSCRTC - Camp Crowder, Mo.

Brigadier General Milliken received his statutory retirement for age, September 1, 1948. He is now living in Johnson City, Tennessee. He is greatly interested in gardening, both vegetable and flower, and is making a study of birds and their life and of the many different kinds of trees.

He has six grandchildren, four girls and two boys.

His wife died in June 1949.

Lieutenant Fred H. Barrett

Fred Hanington Barrett, son of Edna A. Hannington of Glassville, N. B., and Dennison E. Barrett of Bridgewater, Maine, was born in Bridgewater, Maine, on January 12, 1918. He attended school in Bridgewater until he had completed the eighth grade. He then went to Presque Isle where he attended high school, graduating in 1936. While attending high school he lived with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Myran Williams. While in Presque Isle he joined the St. John's Episcopal Church. He then spent a year at Ricker Junior College in Houlton, Maine.

In January of 1939 the Barrett family moved to South Warren, Maine. On March 6, 1939, Fred joined the National Guard, Battery F., in the neighboring town of Thomaston, Maine. He was discharged from the National Guard on December 24, 1939.

Fred then enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps January 19, 1940, and was one of the twenty-five students from the Army Air Corps base at Mitchell Field, Long Island, selected to take a course in air mechanics at the Roosevelt Aviation School, Roosevelt Field, Mineola, Long Island.

After passing the examinations at Roosevelt Field, he reported to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to begin his training to become an Aviation Cadet. From there he went to Montgomery, Alabama, and on February 7, 1941, he graduated in a class of 102 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Corps at Maxwell Flying Field. At this time he received his wings, which his mother still wears. Following his graduation he received an intensive ten-day training course at Roosevelt Field, Mineola, Long Island.

Fred was a pilot instructor at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama, for a few months and, still as a pilot instructor, he was transferred to Cochran Field, Air Corps Basic Flying School, Macon, Georgia.

On July 15, 1941, Lieut. Fred H. Barrett, age twenty-three, and Air Cadet Frank E. During of Hollywood, California, were killed in a plane crash a mile north of Macon, Georgia. His body was brought home and after a military funeral he was buried in the family lot at Bridgewater, Maine.

He was married in May 1941 to Carrie-Sue Warr of Montgomery, Alabama.

A Tribute

Written by the
Rev. H. B. Pulsifer
St. John's Church
Thomaston, Maine

The late Lieut. Fred Barrett, who so recently met an untimely end, was very well known to Father Pulsifer of St. John's Church, Thomaston. He was baptised by him while he was rector of St. John's Church in Presque Isle.

Fred Barrett made friends very easily and was exceedingly popular. Nevertheless he was unconscious of the extent of his influence and was greatly respected by the boys and young men because of his great consideration for others. He threw himself most heartily into the organization of St. John's Boys' Club which attained a membership of 22 young men. Because of his tact and abilities he was unanimously elected president of this club over and over again. He helped organize the sports and was most helpful in having a good literary program at every meeting.

He was a young man of deep religious convictions and absolutely unafraid. He brought many young men to the Sacraments who had never before had any religious affiliations. Boys who were having a hard time found in him a very encouraging friend. He trained the boys as waiters for large church suppers and assigned them tasks in caring for the church property. He worked in the choir and stimulated the boys by his consistent loyalty so that they were regular attendants at church and frequently made visits at all times of day and night for their private devotions.

Although he lived a short time, yet in a brief period he accomplished much. He was very devoted to his family and at the time of his father's sudden death a few months ago, he shouldered the heavy responsibilities of looking after his mother, sisters and brothers. He had a great spirit of adventure and no sacrifice or labor was too arduous for him when a worthy end was in view. The memory of his vigorous life and his unusual facility in doing fine team work will ever remain with his friends.

Lieutenant David L. Packard

Lieut. David L. Packard was born in Florenceville, N. B. He attended the schools in Bridgewater, then went to Unity where he was graduated from high school. After graduating from high school he went to Hartford, Connecticut, where he was employed by the *Hartford Times* as district manager.

He enlisted February 17, 1941, as a Paratrooper and received his training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He went overseas in March 1943, received wounds in action in June, but soon returned to active duty.

He was killed in action during the Italian invasion in Italy, October 6, 1943.

He received the Silver Star for gallantry in action. The commendation reads in part:

In saving the captured town of Arnone, Italy, from severe enemy counter-attacks Lieut. Packard, with total disregard for his own safety exposed himself to enemy fire to distract attention of the enemy from his own scouts who were enabled to approach within grenade position of Nazi weapons and neutralize them.

Lieut. Packard received the Purple Heart posthumously.

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

505th INF.

A.P.O. 469, c/o POSTMASTER, N. Y., N.Y.

Oct. 22, 1943

Mr. Ellie Packard
Bridgewater, Maine

Dear Mr. Packard,

Some time ago I wrote you when your son was in the hospital. Again I write, and already you have been informed of the reason by the War Department. When I heard of David's death I was happy to be among those who went beyond our front lines to obtain his body. With me were men who had been under his command, and they told me of how he had saved the lives of two men by his gallant action. As one enlisted man expressed it: "He was a hell of a brave man."

I felt David's death as a distinct personal loss. He was my roommate throughout our stay in Fort Bragg, and often we burned the midnight oil in happy discussions. A mutual exchange of confidences drew us close together.

With shells still flying over us it was my privilege to perform the religious rite for his departed soul. I assure you

that he is buried with every care and consideration possible. A cross has been set up over the grave, and the location of the same has been reported to the proper military authorities, who will inform you as to the further disposition of the body.

You have often been in my thoughts and prayers, and my heart has gone out to you in your grief, for I know how close you were to your son. But yours can be a proud grief, for David died bravely, in a worthy cause, and doing his duty exceedingly well. I know that your faith in God and in the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ will turn your grief into joy. This is a time for strong minds and valient hearts, and I hope the enclosed leaflet will help you to achieve that end.

Be assured of my prayers, and if I can be of any aid to you, do not hesitate to write.

Most Sincerely Yours,
George B. Wood,
Chaplain (Capt.),
505th Inf.

Staff Sergeant Max Parks

Max Parks was born in Bridgewater, November 23, 1919. After attending schools in town he enlisted in the Air Corps, December 17, 1941, at the age of twenty-two and was assigned to Camp Lee, Virginia. Later he was sent to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, where he studied refrigeration. Here he decided to become a Paratrooper and was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia. From there he went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he graduated from Parachute School, July 11, 1942, as a qualified Parachutist, and was commissioned Staff Sergeant.

In April 1943 he was sent overseas as a member of the 504th Parachute Infantry, 82nd "All American" Airborne Division.

A letter received from him June 2 said that they were training seven

days and five nights a week. He was in the invasion of Sicily and was wounded in action July 12, 1943. He was released from the hospital, September 26, refused Honorable Discharge and returned to action.

On November 26 another letter was received in which he said he could not tell where he was, but that he had been at the front for thirty days.

He was killed in action February 17, 1944, on the Anzio Beach Head and was buried at Nettuno, Italy. After the war his remains were brought home. He is buried at Bridgewater.

He was awarded the Purple Heart.

The Max Parks Post No. 156, American Legion, Bridgewater, was named in his honor.

Headquarters 82nd Airborne Division

Dear Mrs. Parks,

It is with deep regret that I write of the death of your son, Staff Sergeant Max Parks, 11029780, a member of my Command, who died 17th of February 1944 from wounds received in action.

Your son was a member of 504th Parachute Infantry, 82nd "All American" Airborne Division.

Staff Sergeant Max Parks was an excellent non-commissioned officer, a natural leader who never showed fear in combat.

His devotion to duty inspired those with whom he served to give their best to accomplish the required tasks.

Putting aside family ties, the admiration, respect, and affection of comrades are a soldier's most priceless possessions, because collectively these comrades are unfailing judges.

These possessions, I believe your son earned in full measure. Death of such a man leaves with each member of the division a lasting sense of loss, from which there comes to you a deep sense of personal sympathy.

Sincerely,
M. B. Ridgway
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Staff Sergeant Merrill Brewer

Staff Sergeant Merrill Brewer, son of Elwood and Mary Brewer, was born in Bridgewater in 1918. He attended public schools and graduated from Bridgewater Classical Academy in 1937.

After graduation he went to Gardner, Massachusetts, where he worked in the chair factory of Fontain Brothers for one year. He then entered the Gardner State Hospital, to train as a male nurse, and stayed until 1940.

He enlisted in the army in 1941 and received his training at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. From there he went to Hingham, Massachusetts, in the 181st Co. where he remained until February 1944 when he asked to be transferred to the Air Corps, which request was granted. He was then sent to Army Air Base, Alamogordo, New Mexico.

It was while here that his mother received the following letter from him:

March 22, 1944

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here is the long letter I promised you. I didn't ask for this transfer to get out of being an instructor. The order came from Headquarters of the 2nd Air Force.

I will probably be overseas soon and I don't expect a furlough 'til I return.

Mother - here is one thing I want you to promise me - That you won't worry when I'm over there. I know I can fight with more vigor if I know you are at ease. You know I want to do my part in this war. When it's all over we can both say I was over there helping.

Our Commanding Officer is Lt. Col. Samley, a real swell guy. It's an old Bomber Group and very well trained. Most of the pilots have had over a year of Sub. patrol and they really know their stuff.

Give me regards to everyone, Mom, and hope you folks are all well,

Love, Mal.

He was sent overseas in March 1944 to London, England. He was a waist gunner on a B 29 Flying Fortress Bomber. He had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal, Three Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Citation from the Commanding Officers of the Air Force, and was to have received a furlough after his next, the 35th, mission. It was while he was on his last mission that he met his death, September 16, 1944.

Following is a letter from the pilot of his Flying Fortress to his mother:

September 1944

Dear Mrs. Brewer,

I am writing to you concerning Merrill, he was the waist gunner on my Crew and I was the Pilot when he was killed.

Words do not suffice to tell you how deeply sorry I am because you lost a brave son. He was always dependable, efficient and cheerful no matter how tough the going was. I would not have traded him for any other gunner in the Air Force.

Sometimes it is hard to understand why Fate puts her finger on the very finest and cleanest. Merrill was just that.

I cannot tell you the details of our last mission but I can give you roughly, the facts. We were flying at a very low altitude when we were hit by heavy flak. The controls were shot away. The plane caught fire and exploded. Merrill was instantly killed, just half of the crew got out.

Mrs. Brewer, if there is anything I can do for you in any way I would deem it a pleasure and a privilege. My home address is Sullivan, Illinois. When this war is over I promise to pay you a visit and answer any questions you may have concerning Merrill.

Sincerely yours,
James McLaughlin.

Lt. James McLaughlin
858th Bomb. Sq.
492nd Bomb. P P.
A.P.O. 639 c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

First Lieutenant Ralph Hartley

Ralph Hartley, son of Sam and Clara Hartley, was born in Bridgewater. After attending school in Bridgewater he entered Ricker Junior College in the fall of 1935, from which he graduated in June 1939. He then attended the University of Maine. After finishing his junior year he entered the service in February 1943.

He received his basic training at Craig Field, Selma, Alabama. From there he was sent to Florida where he left for the South Pacific Theater. March 1944. He was commissioned a First Lieutenant.

Word was received that he was missing in action, February 27, 1945. He was one of fourteen American airmen killed by a firing squad at Taiboku, Formosa, June 19, 1945.

Col. Gerald Evans Williams

Col. Williams was born in Bridgewater, December 17, 1907. He lived here until 1912, then went to Falmouth, Massachusetts, where he lived until 1917 when he returned to Presque Isle.

He was graduated from Presque Isle High School and Hebron Academy. He was given his appointment to West Point Academy by Hon. Ira G. Hersey (Rep.) of Houlton, who was Representing the 4th District. He was graduated from West Point in 1930 and assigned to the Air Corps, and attended Army Flying School in Texas.

In 1932 he was sent to Hawaii where he was stationed at the Luke Field, Kaalawai, Hawaii. In April 1933 he married Miss Marjorie Parker (of San Antonio, Texas) in the Kawaiahoo Church, Hawaii. (Her father, Col. Arthur Parker, was killed on Corregidor.)

Col. Williams was then stationed in Panama and in 1938 was sent on a Good-will flight to South America for which he received a trophy.

At the outbreak of the World War II, with over 6000 flying hours,

he was sent to Dutch Guiana where he commanded the Ninth Bomber Group stationed at Trinidad, British West Indies and directed anti-submarine operations until 1942.

Col. Williams had a brilliant war record as Commander of the 391 Black Death B 26 Marauder group of the 9th Air Force, operating first in England and later in France.

In May 1948 he studied at the Pentagon Building in Washington, D. C., then accepted a post as Air Attaché to the U. S. Ambassador to Argentina.

On February 17, 1949, Col. Williams left Panama for Buenos Aires, Argentina, and when about 900 miles northwest of there his plane crashed with his wife and six others aboard.

Search was made by the U. S. Air Force mission to Argentina. The wreckage was found in a mountainous area. The ground searchers had to travel six hours by jeep then transfer to mules in order to reach the site of the crash.

The bodies were taken to Buenos Aires for funeral services then shipped to the United States.

Col. Williams and his wife were buried in the National Cemetery in Ft. Houston, Texas.

Among the medals that Colonel Williams received were: Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, American Theater Ribbon, ETO Ribbon with 6 Battle Stars, Victory Medal, The Croix de Guerre with Palm, Distinguished Flying Cross with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze and Silver Star medals and the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

American Legion Post No. 156

Bridgewater American Legion Post No. 156 was organized in 1946 and named in honor of Max Parks who was killed in action February 17, 1944, in Italy in World War II.

The American Legion is primarily interested in veterans, disabled veterans, and veterans' widows and orphans.

The Post sponsors Memorial Day exercises, civic and community activities, educational programs, and good citizenship.

One of the ways of promoting good citizenship is the presentation of a certificate to the outstanding boy and girl in the eighth grade for scholarship, service, loyalty, faithfulness to duty, and citizenship.

Although this Post is small, its influence is felt in the good it has done in the community.

Living In Early Days

Life was hard in the early days of the settlement. Everyone had to work hard, even the children.

Nearly every family had a garden, the father plowed the ground in the spring and, assisted by the mother, planted the seeds. Then the task of hoeing and keeping it free of weeds was left to the mother and the children.

There were no fresh vegetables in the markets in the winter as there are today, so when the dandelions appeared they were eagerly gathered—even as today. Many of these were packed in salt for winter use, a layer of dandelions and a layer of salt. In the winter they were soaked for hours to remove the salt, then cooked as in the spring with a chunk of salt pork. Needless to say, they lacked the taste of our canned greens of today, but they were greens.

There were plenty of raspberries growing in the wood choppings. These were picked and put in large stone jars or crocks (glass jars for canning were then unheard of), a cloth was tied securely over the jar, and the cover put in place. The berries made a juice and the top was covered with a thick layer of mold which, if undisturbed, sealed the jars. In the winter this layer of mold was carefully folded back and the berries were taken out, as red and juicy as when they were put in, but sour, so they were sweetened with brown sugar very sparingly.

Most of the cucumbers were made into salt pickles, either by packing them in salt or making a brine of salt and water.

Apples were prepared for winter use by being peeled, quartered, and cored, then strung on a twine string using a darning needle. These strings of apples were hung out of doors each day to dry in the sun, and brought in each night. When dried they were stored in boxes. In the winter when they were used they had to be soaked in water to make them soft and plump, they were then ready for pies or cooked up into dried applesauce.

Pumpkins were peeled, cut in strips, and dried the same as apples for winter pies.

Fresh meat was scarce except in the winter, as there was no refrigeration. In winter or late fall each farmer killed a beef and hung the quarters in the shed to freeze; then steaks were sawed off as needed, thawed out, and cooked.

Pigs were killed about the same time. Some were frozen to be used fresh; the fat parts were salted. A favorite dish of many in those days

was fried salt pork and potatoes. Another way it was used was to boil chunks of the salt pork, let it cool, then slice it to eat.

The hams were cured by smoking them. A smokehouse was built, a building about four or five feet square and five feet high. The hams were put in salt brine for a week or longer, then hung from the roof of the smokehouse. Inside the house, which had a door but no windows, a fire was built, then smothered to make a smoke. It was kept burning during the days until the hams were thoroughly smoked—and oh! the taste! The bought hams of today do not have that good wood-smoke taste.

Many a farmer thought he couldn't do a forenoon's work unless he had a breakfast of salt pork or ham and gravy and pancakes. Indeed it was a hearty breakfast.

If beefsteak was wanted for summer it was fried, placed in a stone crock, and fat was melted and poured over the meat, covering it completely. It would then keep a long time, and when it was wanted, the meat was dug out of the fat, warmed, and was ready for use.

Doughnuts were not on the breakfast menu every morning, only on special days and at Christmas time. They were mostly made of molasses, for sugar was expensive and scarce.

A good many sheep were raised then. In the spring the sheep were sheared. Then came the work of washing, carding, and spinning the wool into yarn for use in mittens, socks, stockings, blankets, and cloth for winter dresses and men's clothes.

Geese were a common sight in many yards. They were raised, not only for food but for the feathers which were used in pillows and feather beds. The goslings were kept in pens that had the sides and top made of wire. The pens had to be moved daily, for goslings are voracious feeders. The geese provided a tidy sum for the housewife at Christmas time, for they are delicious when roasted. Selling geese came at a later date and not in the early days of the settlement.

Hen feathers were also used for pillows, but they were not as soft as goose feathers. Everyone had hens and hatched their own chickens. The housewife often swapped a setting of eggs with her neighbor, believing that changing eggs would produce a better hatch. As late as 1900 the price of eggs was only ten and twelve cents a dozen.

Soap was another necessity made by the housewife. All winter she saved pork rinds, bones, fat, and scraps of meat. Some nice spring day she would collect all her scraps and put them into a large kettle to cook. After it was cooked it was removed from the fire and set aside to cool when the fat would come to the top and could be taken off easily. When the weather was warm enough for her to work outside, she

would start her soapmaking. First a barrel was set up on blocks of wood; it had a hole near the bottom. Into the barrel was put the hardwood ashes that had been saved and kept dry through the winter. Over the ashes were poured a few pails of water which soaked through the ashes and were caught in a bucket placed under the hole in the barrel. This was the lye water used to make the soap thicken.

A fire was built out-of-doors and a large kettle hung over it. Into the kettle went the grease and lye water which was boiled slowly for hours until it thickened. The finished product was "soft soap," so called because it was the consistency of cold molasses. Rarely did it ever get hard.

The housewife's housekeeping was judged by the whiteness of her floors—there were no such things as linoleums, only hooked or braided rugs—and this "soft soap" certainly rolled up the dirt. While it got out the dirt it also got the hands, making them red, dry, and sore.

Coffee was expensive, therefore scarce, so they made a substitute by using coarse bran from the wheat. The bran was mixed with molasses and roasted very slowly in the oven. It had to be stirred often to keep from burning. This tasted much as postum does today.

One didn't go to the store and buy shoes as today, but went, instead, to the shoemaker. He took the measurement of the foot, then cut out the parts from heavy cowhide leather. The leather was brought in as whole hides—cured—to be made up by the cobbler. Needless to say there was no such things as style, but what they lacked in style was made up for in serviceability, for they wore and wore and wore. The cobbler's pay for making a pair of shoes was very small, probably fifty or seventy-five cents, and that, no doubt in commodities as wood, buckwheat, oats, etc.

In later years when people had larger houses and parlors, the parlors were used only on special occasions—when the minister came to call, for weddings, funerals, and such. The curtains were drawn and doors tightly closed, so there was always a close musty odor when the room was entered.

During the winter the women spent much time making patchwork quilts of very intricate designs. Then the women would meet for a quilting bee. It was a time to exchange news and gossip and usually lasted all day. Only those expert in the art of quilting were permitted to work on those precious quilts. Some are in existence today, treasured heirlooms.

The men, too, had their bees. When a man got the trees cut on his land, then the neighbors gathered and helped him pile up the logs and burn them. These trees were burned in order to clear the land. What a waste of lumber, but then there were too many trees.

Work was exchanged, too, each man helping his neighbor, for the work was hard and there was no machinery as today to do the heavy work.

Another get-together which lasted until a few years ago was that of building a barn, called a barn-raising. Before the day of the raising the carpenter would have all the timbers sawed the right lengths. When the men arrived on the appointed day the job of raising the barn took place. Just the frame was put up. If there was time, some might start putting on the boards. Many were the acts of daring as the young men walked the plates or ridgepoles. In the early days a barn couldn't be raised without plenty of rum, but in later years this custom disappeared.

The whole neighborhood turned out for these events. Long tables made of boards (later used on the barn) were set up in the yard under the trees—if there were any. The neighbor women brought pies, cakes, and doughnuts, while the beans, meats and vegetables, and breads were furnished by the hostess.

Sometimes supper was served to a few who didn't have to leave early to do chores. If there was a fiddler in the community sometimes there was a barn dance in the evening on the new floor.

In spite of the hardships they had to endure, they had good times and were probably happier than people are today with so much.

Churches

Religion played an important part in the lives of the early settlers just as it does today. For a number of years there was no church at the "Line," but meetings were held in the homes, and later in the schoolhouse. Nathaniel Bradstreet is termed as a "Veteran of the Cross" who often led the meetings. Then there was "Uncle Nat" Rideout who led the meetings for years, and to quote from Cyrus Snow's *History of the Boundary*: "He was the only one who could be found to pray over the remains of my father when he was buried at Mars Hill in 1847."

Eventually the church at the "Line" was built through the efforts of Samuel Tompkins, who solicited funds and did much of the work on the building. Others gave time and work. From then on services have been held there most of the time, the minister coming from the Center. This church was dedicated May 23, 1891, and was deeded to the United Convention of Maine in 1930.

The first church at the Center was held in the schoolhouse at Bunker

Hill. It was organized by Rev. William Pennington. Services were held here for some time.

In 1877 Joseph C. Smith gave a piece of his farm for a church and cemetery. With untiring effort, he went to the nearby towns and Canada soliciting money, or produce to be converted into money, for the building of the church. This building stood just below the cemetery, a frame building, the first Baptist Church between Houlton and Presque Isle. It was dedicated August 9, 1899, by Rev. John Perry.

At first, meetings were not held regularly. In 1883 a Sunday School was held during the summer months.

In 1893 it was decided to move the church to the Center. This was done at a cost of \$1,000., half going to John Hughes for moving the building, the other half for repairs.

In 1899 a belfry was added and a new bell purchased at a cost of \$400.

On January 23, 1903, all of the church records but one book were burned when the store of C. C. Campbell was destroyed by fire. Mr. Campbell was the church clerk; he had one book in his safe.

In April 1909 Mr. George Freeman willed the land on which the church now sits, to the organization. By this time the congregation had outgrown the church, so a new one was built at a cost of \$6,000. The old church was used as a vestry. On January 30, 1910, the new church was dedicated, and in 1924 was deeded to the United Baptist Convention of Maine.

Many ministers have served in the community staying from a few months to several years. Those who stayed the longest and are best remembered are Rev. E. W. Churchill, 1908-12; Rev. Elisha Sanderson, 1915-18; Rev. H. A. Clark, 1920-22; and Rev. Morley Durost, who came in 1932 and stayed nine years.

The oldest church members in point of service are Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, H. A. Tompkins, Mrs. C. L. Sharp, and Mrs. Marada McKeen.

The church has many active organizations, some of them being the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the White Cross, the Philathea Classes. The Helping Hand was organized in 1932 by Marjorie Kimball Brooks with Mrs. Aletta Smith as the first president. Some of their projects have been: renovating the vestry at a cost of \$350 (this money was raised by food sales and suppers); donating to the Mather's School in Georgia (a school for colored girls); sending Bundles for Britain; paying a missionary in China \$18 a year; sending sunshine baskets, and flowers to funerals. They had a membership of seventy-five for many years but it has dropped considerably, as this group are the older ladies of the church.

The younger women are known as the "Win One" Class. This was organized in 1935. Some of their projects have been: earning money for a new stove for the church kitchen; contributing to repairs and support of the church; buying a Communion table; helping to buy the carpet and pay off the mortgage. At the present time they are working to add another classroom.

The motto of the Helping Hand Class is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and for the Win One Class it is, "Win the one next to you."

The Baraca Class for men was organized about the same time as the women's classes and although they have a large membership they are not as active as the women.

The church has a very large Sunday School for both young and old. The older people will remember, with love, the kindly teachings of Mrs. R. J. Kimball and Mrs. Marada McKeen and many others. R. J. Kimball served as Superintendent for many years as did George K. Davidson and H. A. Tompkins. Marjorie Kimball Brooks was a tireless worker in the church during her stay in town.

The following Deacons have been elected for life: George K. Davidson, James L. Pennington, H. A. Tompkins. Mr. Davidson was made an Honorary Deacon in 1952.

Mr. Davidson served as janitor nearly twenty-five years, some of the time without pay. He was also church clerk for several years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1900. It was very active for many years. A parsonage was built in 1909.

Some of the pastors were the following: Rev. Pugh, Dunham, Rafter, Pressey, Snow, Carlton, and many others whose names are forgotten.

After a few years the congregation became so small that a resident pastor could not be supported. Then the church was supplied by the pastors from Mars Hill. It was discontinued about 1925.

The church was remodeled into a dwelling house and the parsonage sold to E. W. Fulton. It is now owned by Mrs. Gertrude Jamison.

Schools

In this community as in all other new communities, the people knew the value of an education, so very soon a school was started. Probably the first school was held in someone's home. Then after a time a school-house of logs was built where the present one stood (now Howard Farley's home).

School was kept during the winter months chiefly for the older boys and girls, for at that time of year there was less farm work for them to do. The teacher for the winter months was usually a man, for there were many big boys and they were a rowdy bunch.

During the late spring and early summer there was another term of school. This was for the smaller children and the teacher was a woman.

Lottie Kidder, who lived on what is now the Fred Cook farm, taught school at the Boundary and it is told that she often saw wolves in the swamp below the Chandler farm (now Thomas Cook farm). Since she married Bedford Hume in 1861, it must have been in the late fifties that she taught school. Whether it was a log building or frame is not known.

The first school at the Corner was built by Joseph Ketchum about 1864 and was of logs. He also hired the first teacher, Hannah Oliver, after a district was organized, as was the custom then, and a new frame building erected.

According to one record this building was remodeled twice and then moved to the Center and became the Church store. Another record is that the school was burned in the Corner Fire of 1894. Probably the latter record is the right one.

After the fire, another building was erected on the same site and was used until 1929 when all the schools in town were consolidated and the pupils taken to the Center.

Three of the teachers in the early days at the Corner were Annie McGinley, Isadore Packard, and Frank Pierce of Mars Hill.

By 1885 Bridgewater Center had grown large enough to need a school, so another district was established and in that year a building was erected on the same site as the present primary building. Since this was the first public building in this part of town it was used for all purposes — sunday school and church services, spelling bees, Good Templar's Lodge, and probably Town Meetings.

A town Agent was appointed to hire the teachers and a Supervisor was elected by the town to give examinations to prospective teachers. A few terms at Houlton Academy was sufficient to meet the teaching requirements.

Inadequate as it seems to us today with specialized training from kindergarten to college, it was, however a step in the right direction, when we are told that thirty years earlier a teacher would have to study her lesson before calling up a class to read in the *Fourth Reader*.

A few years later, with the increasing population, it was necessary to build another schoolhouse, so the District erected another on the same lot beside the first one. The lower classes occupied one building

while the upper classes occupied the other. It might be fitting to pay tribute at this point to Idella Ackerson who taught here a number of years. She will be fondly remembered by many of the older people of the town.

It was about 1905 that a system of grading the schools was started, thus bringing them in line with the other schools in the state.

On May 15, 1911, Mr. William Tapley's buildings, directly south of the schoolhouses, caught fire and burned. There was a strong south wind blowing and the sparks from the fire ignited the schoolhouse. In spite of the heroic efforts of the townsmen, the buildings were soon in ruins.

Immediately a new building rose from the ashes of the old. This was a two-room building housing the first four grades. The four upper grades now occupied the high school building, since this had been enlarged in 1910. The Tapley lot was added for a playground.

In 1929 it was necessary to erect another building. This was built near the primary building at a cost of \$18,500. This had four rooms, at first only the two rooms on the first floor were finished. The same year the six rural schools were transported to the Center to form a consolidated school, thus eliminating extra teachers and giving the pupils the benefit of better-trained teachers and modern housing and equipment to work with.

After the high school burned in 1940 the two rooms on the second floor of the intermediate building were finished to accommodate the fifth and sixth grades. The seventh and eighth grades are now in the new high school building.

The town has made great strides in its educational system. Time was when a few weeks in the upper grades or at Houlton Academy was sufficient training for a teacher, but today there is a teacher for every grade.

Today the town can point with pride to its excellent schools, comparable to any in the county, yes, in the state, according to its size, with its efficient corps of teachers, including a sub-primary. The music courses, both vocal and instrumental, have been a great addition to the schools.

Bridgewater Classical Academy

By 1900 the people of the town felt the need of a high school to eliminate the cost of tuition paid for those few students who desired a

high school education and who had to attend schools in nearby towns. It would also enable all of the boys and girls to get a better education. It was therefore voted to buy a piece of land from Albert Chandler. The contract was given to Richard Perkins to build a one-story building, which was completed about 1902.

The first teacher was A. M. Stackpole, Jr., who stayed one year. His place was taken by "Professor" Knowlton who remained many years. "Prof." Knowlton had taught at Ricker Academy at the time J. Fuller and Asa Bradstreet attended that institution.

How proud the people of the town must have been when the first class graduated. In 1906 there were only five in the class, namely: Vella Barrett, Myrtle Esty, Amber Slipp, Robert Jamison and Forest Welch. The classes of '07 and '08 had five graduates each, also. How large the school was at this time was not known, but it probably was small.

An Act of Incorporation of the Trustees was granted in 1907, which reads as follows:

Laws of Maine 1907. Chapter 248.

An act to incorporate the Trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled as follows:

Sec. I. A. M. Stackpole Sr., E. C. Folsom, J. F. Bradstreet, A. E. Schriver, Guy C. Fletcher, Harry Hussey and A. M. Stackpole Jr., their associates and successors are duly constituted a corporation by the name of the Trustees of Bridgewater Classical Academy. They shall fill all vacancies occurring in their number, take and hold any estate, personal and real, and shall have all the powers and privileges incumbent to similar corporations.

Sec. 2. Any three of the persons named in Section one, may call the first meeting of the trustees by notice served upon the others.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 14, 1907.

In Town Meeting 1910 it was voted to raise \$3,000 to have the roof raised, thus making a two-story building, the high school to have the second floor, the first floor to accommodate the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. This building served as the high school until it was burned in March 1940. School was held in various places in the town for the remainder of the year. A new school lot was purchased and a new building erected ready for occupancy in the fall. This building is very modern and is the equal of any building in towns of similar size.

An academy differs from a high school only in organization. A high school is under the management and control of a superintending school committee, whereas an academy is under a board of trustees.

In the past, academies received more state aid than high schools, but in 1951 the Legislature repealed the Academy Aid Law and now the state aid is the same as for high schools.

Some of the men who have served the greatest number of years as trustees are J. Fuller Bradstreet, H. G. Stackpole, and A. M. Stackpole, the latter serving over forty-five years. The above are all deceased. H. A. Tompkins has served over thirty years and H. A. McIlroy over twenty-five years.

The present trustees are H. A. Tompkins, H. A. McIlroy, D. W. Stackpole, R. D. Stackpole, Ralph Milliken, C. H. Simonson, and H. L. Simonson.

The town has a right to be proud of its high school with its modern equipment, its dramatics courses, its bands and other musical organizations, and its athletics. It has a right, too, to be proud of its graduates, for many of them go on to colleges or universities. Those who go no further have acquired a good education and make better citizens to take their places in the affairs of the town.

Cemeteries

The first cemetery seems to have been back of the hill on the farm of George Esty. This was a pleasant spot to leave the loved ones in their last long sleep. The stream at the foot of the hill murmured through the drowsy days of summer; the hill protected from the chilly winds of winter.

The first death of which there is a record is that of a young man by the name of John Mantor who was working for the Moultons, so it must have been in the forties.

In 1847 the wife of Joseph Bradstreet died, and in November 1848 John Bradstreet was drowned. They were the son and daughter-in-law of Nathaniel Bradstreet. Probably there were deaths before these three, for these occurred twenty years after the arrival of the first settler.

After the church had been built at the Boundary the bodies were all taken up—at least it was supposed all were taken up—and placed in the cemetery back of the church, but a few years ago while digging gravel for the road from the hill on the Esty place the remains of two bodies were found, probably of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Dyer. These were carefully placed in the cemetery back of the church.

The second cemetery was at the Corner, an acre of land from the Ketchum farm. This is a peaceful place with a grand view, situated near the top of the hill. One can look across the valley to the hills at the Boundary and beyond that to the bluer hills beyond the St. John River. Toward the northeast Mars Hill looks peacefully down.

The first three to be buried here were George A. Ketchum, who died in 1847 at the age of twenty-six; Starr Rideout, who died in 1852; and Mary Thorncraft, wife of James Thorncraft, who died in 1856.

The third cemetery is located on the Joseph Smith farm at the top of the hill. This spot overlooks the town, in the distance, northward, Mars Hill looms serenely. To the southwest, on a clear day Mt. Katahdin may be seen—a pleasant spot to leave our loved ones awaiting Resurrection Day. Tread softly and reverently: here sleep our dead.

Many graves in each of these hallowed spots are unmarked, but all are mowed and tended by a caretaker, the funds provided for by the Cemetery Association which was started by a gift in the will of E. E. Milliken.

Following is a list of the War Veterans in each of the cemeteries.

Boundary Cemetery

Gustavus A. Bradstreet
Civil War
Born, 1830
Died, Jan. 5, 1904

Thomas Pamphery
Civil War
Born, 1820
Died, April 1, 1889

James McPherson
Civil War
Co. I, Me. Inf.

Ezra McGray
Civil War
(Grave not marked)

Wilson Webber
Civil War
(Grave not marked)

Alexander Alley
War of 1812

Rue T. Snow
Spanish War
World War I
Born, July 11, 1879
Died, Sept. 22, 1929

Corner Cemetery

John F. Ketchum
Civil War
Co. B, 14th Me. Inf.
Born, July 4, 1834
Died, June 3, 1915

Joseph Garfield
Civil War
59th Reg. Mass. Vol.
Born, March 5, 1841
Died, Oct. 7, 1911

Thomas Huntington
Civil War
Born, Oct. 2, 1841
Died, May 9, 1924

Samuel Fulton
Civil War
Born, 1846
Died, Sept. 25, 1864

Samuel Murphy
Civil War
Born, March 11, 1835
Died, May 3, 1903
(Grave not marked)

Joshua Fulton
Civil War
Born, 1848
Died, March 6, 1864

Richard Fulton
Civil War
Born, 1842
Died, Nov. 24, 1863

Edward F. Nelson
Civil War
Born, July 30, 1841
Died, June 23, 1862

Smith Cemetery

Charles Kilcollins
World War I
224th Battn. C. E. F.
Died, May 11, 1916

John K. Nelson
Civil War
Born, 1830
Died, 1896

Richard McNinch
Civil War
Born, 1847
Died, May 17, 1922
(Grave not marked)

Archie McNinch
World War I
Died, 1930

John McIntyre
Civil War
Died, April 1, 1897

Joseph Sargent
Civil War
Born, 1829
Died, March 26, 1894

John Berry
Civil War
(Grave not marked)

Sewell Baston
Civil War
Died, May 6, 1898

Robert Landers
Civil War
Vol. 11th Me. Inf.

Stores

In the early days of the settlement at the "Line" all the supplies had to be brought in through the Province, up the St. John River to Woodstock by boat, then overland by team—probably ox-team at that. Since transportation was so difficult, there were few luxuries. They were too expensive and money was scarce; therefore, only the necessities were brought in. These consisted of machinery for the mill, horseshoes, flour—until a gristmill for grinding wheat was built—molasses, brown sugar (white being too expensive, and even brown sugar was used very sparingly, the sweetening in most of the cooking being molasses), salt pork, and of course rum. That seemed to be a much needed commodity, or so the men thought. Anyway a barrel was always brought with a barrel of molasses. There were such household articles as pots, pans, needles, pins, calico, etc.

When the supply of groceries was brought in one would see the people going to the store with two jugs, one for molasses, the other for rum. The women would be seen flocking to the store with pillowcases to get flour in (paper bags were scarce or unavailable), as the flour came in barrels in those days. No one thought of getting a barrel of flour. Probably they couldn't afford to, although in later years it was customary for many people to buy one or more barrels at a time.

The first store in the town of which there is a record was at the "Line." Henry Harvey started it about 1840—thirteen years after the first settler came. In 1845 Jesse Moulton bought the Harvey property and with it the store.

When John D. Baird came in 1851 he bought the Moulton mill and the store where he had a thriving business. Bedford Hume clerked for him seven years. Following Mr. Hume came Henry Hare, an Englishman, who stayed a few years, then moved to Monticello.

In the late sixties Charles Gallupe came here and built a store on the point of land east of Mr. Farley's house, where he had a small trade until his death in 1873.

In the early seventies Howard and Amos White built a store on the Boundary Line, part of it being in Canada and part of it in Maine. This was later sold to McMullen. This building was torn down a few years ago and the Canadian Customs House was built on the site of the eastern half of the building.

Sometime during this period George T. Freeman had a store here.

John Pryor then bought the store from John D. Baird about 1872 and years later sold it to Maurice Burt. This was somewhere near where the U. S. Customs House is today.

After several others tried their luck in the Gallupe store, each remaining only a short time, it was taken over by J. Howard Farley in 1892, who at that time was only twenty years old. He was a very popular young man and soon was doing a big business.

Let's leave J. Howard for the present and go to the Corner.

The first record of a store at the Corner was one built by C. F. A. Johnson about 1852. Mr. Johnson remained here only a few years. During his stay Charles Kidder was his clerk and he bought the store when Mr. Johnson left. Mr. Kidder was in business for four years, when it passed into the possession of Mr. Mansur of Houlton, who sold it to G. W. Collins. In 1861 Mr. Collins moved it and built a larger store. This store sat on the north side of the Corner Road. In 1866 he sold it to Bedford Hume, who carried on until his death in 1889.

Richard Perkins had a jewelry store at the Corner located where Perley Jamison's house now sits.

The first store at the Center seems to have been built by Warren Snow, who came here from Mars Hill sometime before 1880. It was a small store located north of the present A. M. Stackpole store. Warren had been a teacher in town before he went into business, but in a short time he had the urge to travel, so sold out to his brother Fred in 1880. He then went to Ohio and there he formed a chain of stores and became very successful.

C. P. Church built a store on the location of the old Farley store about 1882, which he operated under the name of H. M. Church. It was chiefly for the tannery, but many of the townspeople traded there. After the death of Mr. Church, Mrs. Church's brother, Edwin C. Folsom, came from Bradford, Maine, in 1890 to manage the store for her. After the fire at the Corner in 1894 Mr. Folsom became the first Postmaster at the Center. In 1897 Myron Williams, brother-in-law of Mr. Folsom, came from Bangor and worked as assistant Postmaster. Mr. Williams later married Bell Barrett. Mr. Folsom ran the store until it was bought by J. Howard Farley in 1910.

The next store at the Center was built in 1893 by the Lowell Brothers, who came from Monticello. They bought the store in Mars Hill, had it taken down and brought to town. One night when it was partly built, a strong wind blew it down. In their haste to rebuild it they didn't get it straight, but in spite of that, it has stood the winter winds for sixty years. This store was a large two story building which they sold in 1901 to Fred Snow, who was finding his store too small.

In Fred's store one could find anything from "pins to plows." For many years he carried caskets. He had a hearse and a beautiful pair of black horses to haul the hearse. With the coming of automobiles

and undertakers, he disposed of his horses and left the casket business to the undertakers. He carried on the store until failing health forced him to retire in 1935. He was Town Treasurer from 1918 to 1934. He married Annie Withers from Canada; they had one daughter, Beatrice, who married George Barrett.

Henry Bradstreet built a store in 1895 on the lot where Ralph Milliken's store now is and sold it to Richard Kimball in 1900. This was a two-story building with living quarters upstairs. In 1916 he sold the store to F. G. Everett and Son and built himself a bungalow on the back of the lot.

Mrs. Everett and son, Ralph, had a grocery store; they also sold ice cream and sodas. In March 1923 the building and contents burned. Ralph immediately moved a one-story building onto the foundation and re-stocked the store. In 1927 Ralph sold the stock and business to Howard (Pete) Farley, who ran it until 1931 when Ralph Milliken bought out Pete's business. Ralph and his wife Virginia are doing a good business and are very popular.

The next store in town was built by J. Howard Farley in 1901. It was a large two story building (Twitchell's, today) north of the Town Hall.

Desiring to add drygoods to his line of groceries, but not having room in this store, he purchased the H. M. Church store in 1910 and Mrs. Sadie Ketchum was employed as clerk. In 1914 Mr. Farley sold the grocery store to Frank Bradstreet (son of Asa H. Bradstreet).

After a few years Mr. Farley decided to add men's furnishings and boots and shoes for both men and women. Since the store was not large enough, he and Mr. Thistle, druggist, built the two-story concrete block in 1915. The north half of the building was used for men's clothing and shoes, the south half was Mr. Thistle's drug store. This building is today the Town Office and the Post Office. The upper floor is used for apartments. Mr. Farley retired in 1932.

In 1902 Mr. George T. Freeman built the Freeman block where he had a store in the south half. The middle part was Mr. Thistle's drug store until he and Mr. Farley built the new concrete block. The north part was used by Joshua Pryor as a harness shop.

Since Mr. Freeman's death the south half has been occupied by Elias Nelson, clothing, the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., and Victor Morin, clothing. At the present time it is vacant.

In 1903 Asa H. Bradstreet bought a new two-story building from Nate Bradstreet and started a grocery and meat store, which he operated for over twenty years.

To go back now to Frank Bradstreet: as has been said he bought the

Farley store in 1914 where he sold groceries and furniture. He kept it until 1924 when he sold to his brother-in-law, Guy Twitchell who operated it a few years; at present it is vacant.

In 1917 A. M. Stackpole built the concrete block on the east side of the street. He sold automobiles, farm machinery, and hardware. Harold McIlroy is the manager, a position he still holds. In 1923 the business was incorporated under the name of the A. M. Stackpole Co.

There have been other stores in town. John Nelson built a small store across from the Snow store, where he sold groceries and meats. This is now owned and operated by Lewis Finnemore.

Clinton Bradstreet had a meat store near the station. Herbert Pryor had a meat store south of the Town Hall. Patrick McGowan had a confectionary store on the lot now occupied by Mrs. Serena Dyer. The old Farley store has had several occupants since Mr. Farley retired. At present it is Delong's Market.

In 1919 George Brown, better known as Doddie, opened a store at the Boundary, which he operated for a number of years. He came here about 1880 when he worked for Mr. Edward and Den Barrett on the farm. Winters he spent in the woods driving teams for the Barretts. His grand-daughter, Mrs. Hilda Morse, lives in town.

The following table gives the length of years these men served or are serving as storekeepers in the town:

J. Howard Farley	1892-1932 — 40 years
Fred Snow	1880-1935 — 55 “
Harold McIlroy	1917-1953 — 36 “
Ralph Milliken	1931-1953 — 22 “

Hotels

In the early days each town had some sort of hotel. The reason for so many small inns was that travel was slow and difficult. The roads were poor, being quagmires in the spring, filled with ruts in the summer and snowbound in winter.

Bridgewater, like the other small towns, had its hotels.

Probably the first that might be called a hotel was the boardinghouse at the Boundary run by Nathaniel Bradstreet in the early days of the settlement. Any travelers passing through stopped here, as well as the men working in the mill.

The first real hotel in the town seems to have been built at the Center by Sumner Whitney in 1840. There was no town there then, not even a house. The nearest house on the north was the Orin Nelson place—now owned by Donald Kingsbury. There were no buildings or clearings in the southern part of town; most of the settlers lived at the Corner or on the Corner Road.

This was after the Aroostook War, so a road had been grubbed out from Houlton to Presque Isle and some settlers were coming into the County, so there was some business.

Probably the cost of a night's lodging, feed for the team, and breakfast would not exceed fifty cents.

Joseph Ketchum built the first hotel at the Corner in 1841. This he ran until 1854. After that there were several owners until it burned in 1861. This building was located on the southeast corner of the road near where the substation now stands.

As there was a store and a few houses here when the hotel was built, it is probable that more of the travelers stopped here than at the Whitney Hotel.

After the hotel burned in 1861 it was rebuilt and operated by James H. Kidder until 1889 when he was elected Registrar of Deeds for Aroostook County and went to Houlton to live.

Mr. Kidder sold it to Charles Fulton, who operated it along with his farm until it burned in May 1894.

After the Corner Fire nearly everyone moved to the Center and built homes. It was here that Charles Church built the hotel which he called "The Central House," because it was halfway between Houlton and Presque Isle. Here the stage made overnight stops.

After operating it a few years Mr. Church sold to Charles Fulton, who again tried operating it. He in turn sold to Tyler Kennedy.

In 1901 Judd Burtte came here from Centerville, N. B., where he had been in partnership with his father operating the Burtte Hotel. He bought the Central House from Tyler Kennedy.

The Central House, in its day, was the equal of any in the small towns, catering to the traveling men and general public, setting a fine table. It would accommodate about twenty-five people. Probably its greatest prosperity was under the management of Mr. Burtte, who was a born hotel man.

In 1918 Mr. Burtte sold to John Sargent, but by this time the hotel business in the small towns was on the decline, and in a short time he sold to Tom Buckley, who had returned to town to spend his last years. Mr. and Mrs. Buckley took down the sign, closed the doors, and re-sided in a few rooms.

After Mr. Buckley's death the hotel was left to a nephew, Judson Turner. Mr. Turner had been born in Bridgewater, but when a young man had become a lighthouse keeper. He had now reached retirement age, so came back to Bridgewater. He found the building in a very run-down condition, so started to make considerable repairs, but he had lived by the sea too long to be contented inland, so after a year or two he sold it to the Bradbury Brothers.

Bradbury's started in to do a complete remodeling job. They raised the roof from a one and a half story building to two stories and changed it into apartments. It is now the home of Earl Bradbury.

Post Office

In the early days of the settlement letters and papers were probably scarce and few and far between.

The first mention of a post office in the town is in the history of Cyrus Snow written sometime before his death in 1914 in which he said it was in John D. Baird's store that the mail was brought from Woodstock, N. B., once a week by Bedford Hume's father and that it was a Canadian office.

Now here is a chance for argument, and whoever can settle it today may do so. Mr. Baird didn't come here until 1851 and Mr. Hume in 1853. This was after the Boundary Dispute had been settled, so why was it then a Canadian office? It is possible it may have been in the thirties. If so it was no doubt in the boardinghouse, for the first store was in 1840 owned by Henry Harvey.

In the thirties the mail may have been brought to Houlton, then taken across to Woodstock, and from there to the "Line," but after 1839 there was a road or trail from Houlton and the mail could have been brought direct to town.

The first U. S. Post Office in the town was at the Corner in 1849. As the records were burned in the Corner fire, the author wrote to the Postmaster General and later to the National Archives office for the list of Postmasters. The last letter appears first.

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C.

August 12, 1952

Miss Annie E. Rideout
Route 2
Oakland, Maine

Dear Miss Rideout:

This is in reply to your letter of August 10, 1952, to the National Archives and Records Service, regarding the post office at Bridgewater, Maine.

According to the records of the Post Office Department now in our custody, a post office was established at Bridgewater, Aroostook County, on February 8, 1849. It was discontinued on April 21, 1860, and reestablished on September 13, 1860, and finally discontinued on October 19, 1894. Names of postmasters and dates of their appointment were:

Joseph Ketchum	February 8, 1849
Charles Kidder	May 13, 1854
James H. Ketchum	December 27, 1856
Linneus Morse	September 13, 1860
Charles Kidder	October 2, 1860
James H. Ketchum	January 13, 1863
George W. Collins	December 9, 1863
Frank P. Orcutt	October 31, 1873
Mrs. Harriet B. Rice	October 9, 1876
James Kidder	October 22, 1877
James H. Kidder	November 6, 1877
Della J. Kidder	November 23, 1880
Della J. Whitney	January 17, 1882
Lottie M. Hume	December 7, 1882
Edwin O. Collins	December 21, 1886
Richard H. Perkins	May 21, 1888
Mrs. Isadore A. Barrett	June 14, 1889
Ida A. Perkins	September, 1893

During 1864 the post office at Bridgewater was a 5th class office, and effective October 1, 1864, the annual compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$46.00.

Very truly yours,
Victor Gondos, Jr.
For the Chief Archivist
Industrial Records Branch

E. C. Folsom was Postmaster from September 1893 to February 28, 1901.

Post Office Department
Assistant Postmaster General
Washington 25, D. C.

April 14, 1952

Miss Annie E. Rideout
Route 2
Oakland, Maine

Dear Miss Rideout:

The Postmaster General has asked me to acknowledge your letter of April 2, 1952, in which you request to be advised of the names of the postmasters at Bridgewater, Maine, from the establishment of the post office to 1920.

The name of this office was changed from Bridgewater Center to Bridgewater, effective March 1, 1927.

The records of this Bureau disclose the following postmasters at the fourth class office of Bridgewater Center and the years of their service:

<i>Postmasters</i>	<i>Assumed Charge</i>	<i>Separated</i>
Albert L. Chandler	March 1, 1901	Aug. 11, 1909
Harvey A. Tompkins	Aug. 11, 1909	Sept. 22, 1909
Mrs. Ada A. Perkins	Sept. 22, 1909	May 16, 1916
Franklin Bradstreet	May 16, 1916	April 14, 1919
Edmund O. Collins	April 14, 1919	Nov. 12, 1926
Office Made Presidential October 1, 1920 Appointment date.		

For the names of postmasters during the early years of this post office you should write the National Archives, General Reference, Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph J. Lawler
Assistant Postmaster General

The following list was received from the present Post mistress, Bethe Stone. Became a 3rd class office January 1922.

George Barrett (acting)	Nov. 12, 1926	July 13, 1927
Donald W. Stackpole	July 13, 1927	Jan. 31, 1936
Bethe M. Stone	Feb. 2, 1936	

The first rural free delivery service was established in 1905 with Charles Ackerson as the rural mail carrier, an office he held twenty-one years, until failing health forced him to retire, Aug. 1926.

Carrying the mail in those days was not an easy task. He had to go in all kinds of weather, sunshine or rain, through deep mud, frozen roads, and deep snows. No weather was too rough to prevent him from starting on his route, though there were times when the roads were impassable and he had to turn back.

In winter he had a little house built on his sleigh, which protected him from the wind and snow. A soapstone kept his feet warm, but there was no way of keeping his hands warm except heavy gloves and mittens.

After the resignation of Mr. Ackerson, Robert Jamison was appointed carrier, a position he still holds. His first traveling was done in the same way as Mr. Ackerson's, but soon after, the roads were improved to the extent that he was able to use a car during the summer months. Winters he had to travel by team.

Today the roads are hard surfaced and plowed in the winters, so he can travel all winter in a heated car. Such are the improvements in travel.

The mail has been carried from the station to the post office for over thirty years by George K. Davidson, and is still carried by one of his daughters, who is carrying it until George is able to be about again.

Doctors

In the early 1800's people were ill as they are today, but they had to be more self-reliant, for doctors were scarce. Most of the women knew and gathered common herbs found in the fields and woods.

Some of the herbs were tansy, penny-royal, catnip, the mints, gold-thread roots, cherry bark, labrador, liverwort, and many others. To the majority of people today these herbs are unknown.

In the early days, in a case of illness, the people of the Boundary had to depend on Dr. Wiley of Florenceville, N. B., a distance of about nine miles. If a doctor was needed, a man took his team if he had one (if not, he borrowed his neighbor's), drove to Florenceville and brought the doctor back with him. There were no telephones then.

Dr. Wiley's territory extended from Monticello to Westfield, as well as over an equally large territory in Canada. He had a roan horse which he drove in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads, day and night, winter and summer, to minister to the suffering. No summons was too far away, no weather too severe, day or night, to stop him from answering a call.

From 1860 to 1873 the Corner had doctors: first, Dr. Ayer, then Dr. Lewis, Dr. Fulton, and Dr. Young, all good doctors for those days and all kindly men, never imposing heavy fees.

In the fall of 1874 Dr. W. W. White came to the Boundary from Canada and located in the building at the end of the bridge, now owned by Fred Whited. Here he lived and had his office.

He was always ready to answer every call, day or night, regardless of the weather. The town pauper or the well-to-do farmer received equal attention and all the help within his power to bestow, and many were the accounts on his books that were never collected, because he knew full well the patients could not pay.

Dr. White was beloved by all, for he was not only their doctor but friend and counselor as well.

About 1918 he gave up his practice here and moved to Houlton where he continued his office practice until failing eyesight forced him to retire after sixty years of service. He was awarded the Medal of the Maine Medical Association for fifty years of continuous practice.

Dr. White was a graduate of Magill University, a member of Central Lodge of Bridgewater, Masonic Lodge of Mars Hill, St. Aldemar Commandry of Houlton, Annah Temple of Bangor, and a member of the Methodist Church.

Dr. White was never married. The last few years he was nearly blind. He died in 1938 at the age of eighty-seven, highly esteemed by fellow members of the medical profession and by friends.

About 1900 Dr. Schriver came to the Center and started to practice, but stayed only a few years then moved to the southern part of the state.

Sometime between 1910 and 1912, Dr. E. H. Jackson came to town but he also stayed only a few years, then left to specialize in nose and throat, and now has a practice in Augusta. He was followed by Dr. Bundy, who after a short time moved to Mars Hill, but still kept his patients in Bridgewater. He later moved to Brownville where he is employed as the B & A doctor.

Bridgewater has now been without a local doctor for many years. Dr. W. B. Summerville from Mars Hill serves the community at the present time.

Bridges

Up to 1848 the only means of crossing the Prestile Stream was on a floating bridge in the spring and fall. Probably the stream was low enough to be crossed by teams, or on rocks by foot in the summer, and on the ice in the winter—at the Boundary.

In the winter of 1848-49 the piers for the first bridge were built. They were made of cedar logs, square, box shaped, placed on the ice and filled with rocks. When the ice melted in the spring the piers sank to the bottom of the stream.

Stringers of logs were laid from the banks to the piers and on these were spiked the plank flooring of the bridge. The only railing was a log fastened on each side of the bridge, but with only teams crossing, this railing was enough.

The plank flooring had to be replaced from time to time but the piers stood the test of time, about seventy-five years, through spring freshets and the trickle of summer droughts until they were torn down in 1922 and replaced by a concrete bridge.

There is no record of when the first bridge was built at the Center, but probably before that at the "Line." It was smaller than the bridge at

the "Line," having only one pier, probably built the same as that at the Boundary, but in later years this had a railing on the sides. In the year 1916 the town voted to build a concrete bridge across the Whitney and the Dead Brook.

In the spring of 1923 the bridge across the Whitney stream was undermined and the bridge toppled into the stream, but it was immediately rebuilt. In the meantime the traffic had to cross the bridge on the West Road.

The bridge across the West Road was no doubt built at a later date. This has been rebuilt three times; the last time was in 1952 and is of wood.

Old Sawmills

In 1829, Nathaniel Bradstreet built the first sawmill in the town at the mouth of the Whitney Stream where it enters the Prestile. This was primeval wilderness and the site had to be cleared, the dam put in place, and the mill hewn by hand from water wheel to ridgepole.

The first mill was run by an up-and-down saw which operated much as a jig saw does today, the power driving the saw being a water wheel. He operated this mill until 1838 when he sold it to Harvey and Trask, who kept it about four years and in turn sold it to the Moulton Brothers in 1842.

The Moulton Brothers immediately built an addition onto the mill large enough for two clapboard machines and two shingle machines. Each machine was operated by a separate water wheel. This was a great improvement, for if one machine broke down it could be repaired without stopping the other machines.

The wheels that ran the new machines were not of wood but made of cast iron about three feet in diameter and adjusted to an upright shaft geared to the required speed of the saw.

These machines were far different from those of today. A wooden crane was set in the floor and ceiling above, so it would swing either way, with warp and pulleys attached, and grappling hooks to seize the cut at both ends. Then by turning a crank at the base of the crane, the warp would wind around a wooden roller and the cut be lifted from the floor and swung into the machine in a horizontal position above the saw.

The "sappers" were built on the principle of a turning lathe and were to remove the bark from the logs.

The shingle machines were old style, too, the saw entering the end of the bolt, and quartered with the up-and-down saw.

The sawed lumber was floated down the stream and into the St. John River where it was rafted and floated to Fredrickton, then shipped to Boston and other New England markets by boat.

Mr. Baird was the next one to operate the mill, in 1851. Again changes were made. First he sawed lumber for a new mill using the old machinery. He then removed the mill, built a new and higher dam, and by 1854 had a new mill operating. In it he had a gang saw and an up-and-down saw. He ran this mill several years, selling much of the lumber to the English markets.

He ran the gang saw for three seasons, then took it out but kept the up-and-down saw, running it until 1872 when he sold to John Pryor.

Mr. Pryor replaced the up-and-down saw with a rotary saw and improved the water wheel. After about twelve years, in 1884, G. W. Collins bought the mill adding a planer and groover and making other improvements. This mill was kept in operation until December 1894 when it was burned.

In the meantime Mr. Collins built a sawmill at the Center, in 1876, on the Whitney Stream. This had an up-and-down saw and a shingle mill. In 1880 he sold it to Thomas Huntington.

The first sawmill at the Center was built by John McKeen in 1860 shortly after his arrival, which he operated until 1884 when he sold to Elmer E. Milliken. This first mill was for sawing shingles. Later he put in machinery for sawing long lumber also. He operated it until June 1, 1915, when it was burned, but it was immediately rebuilt. When his sons, Leon and William, were old enough they took over the management, but after a few years William went into business for himself in Presque Isle. Leon carried on until his death in 1924.

To return to T. G. Huntington. He did not have the sawmill long before it burned. He then sold the site back to Mr. Collins who erected a new mill which he sold to C. P. Church. After the tannery was burned, this mill was bought by Frank and Clifford Sharp. After a few years Frank sold his share to Clifford who operated the mill alone until sometime in the thirties. Since that time both the Sharp and the Milliken mills have crumbled into decay.

About 1905 William Van Wart came from Houlton and bought the mill site at the Boundary where he built a mill for making fine finishes. This was one of the best of its kind in the county at that time as Mr.

Van Wart was an expert workman. In the flood of 1923, it was swept away and was never rebuilt.

The later mills of the town need no explaining.

Tannery

The first tannery, built by G. W. Collins about 1875, was located on the east side of Whitney Stream near where the present mill stands. This tannery processed upper leathers. The hides used were obtained locally and from the western United States. This tannery was destroyed by fire in 1884, but another was rebuilt near where Howard Lewis now lives.

C. P. Church bought the new tannery, putting in machinery for making sole leather. The hides used for the soles were shipped from Buenos Aires and were sugar cured. They were shipped to Bangor and then hauled to Bridgewater by teams. After the railroad came through, they were shipped by carload lots.

C. P. Church built a store which was located where the machinery store now is. The store supplied not only the tannery help, but many of the townspeople traded there. Later J. H. Farley bought the store.

On Saturday, July 3, 1886, the tannery burned, but was soon rebuilt and bought by Hunt Company of Boston who operated it until 1890 when it came under the management of Proctor, Hunt & Haskell.

Why did they ship the hides here, so far from the shoe factories? Tannin was the chief ingredient used in tanning the leather, and since tannin was obtained from hemlock bark, and since they used twenty-one cords of bark a day, it was cheaper to ship the hides *in* than to ship the bark *out*. Besides there were large stands of hemlock near the town.

Large crews of men were sent into the woods to cut these beautiful trees which were peeled and left in the woods to rot as the wood was too soft for building purposes and too poor for firewood. What a waste this seems today with such a scarcity of wood and lumber in many places.

In a few years the woods were stripped of hemlock trees, and today there is scarcely a hemlock to be found in the forests for many miles around, and today the majority of people, even men, unless they are woodsmen, cannot recognize a hemlock tree when they see one.

The making of sole leather involved quite a process. Twenty-one

cords of bark were ground a day, enough to make four leaches. Hot water 360° F. was put on the ground bark and left twelve hours. This made the tannin. The vats containing the tannin were in the yard. There were 555 vats, each 9x9, and 8 feet deep.

The whole hides were placed in these "soak vats" for forty-eight hours, then taken out and split from "neck to tail" (making what was called two sides), and hung in the "sweat vaults" where they were left forty-eight hours. They were then brought out and "milled." The "mill" was a huge trough, six feet wide, ten feet long, and three feet deep. Two large legs ran back and forth on a crank shaft. The men put thirty hides in each mill; an overhead pipe poured water continuously over the hides while they were being milled. There was a foot on the bottom of each leg with iron prongs. These turned the hides, rolled and rubbed them together for about fifteen minutes. This process took most of the hair off. The hides were then put in cool water for the beamsters.

From there they were put through the "fleshers" which took off any bits of fat or flesh left on the inside of the hides. From there they were put in pots of spring water and left overnight.

The next day the "beamsters" pulled the hides out of the water and put them on a "beem" where the hair was shaved off with huge knives. Twenty-one "beamsters" were employed, each man had his own stamp which he put on the hides. In this way the overseer knew if any man was slighting his work. Each man did from forty to fifty sides a day.

The hides were then sent to the handler house where they were put in vats containing a weak solution of lactic acid. They went through ten solutions, each one a little stronger than the last. This process took eight days. From here they went into the yard and put through more solutions, each one slightly different. This entire process took ninety days. One thousand sides were ready to take out each day and went to the "wash wheel." Fifty sides at a time went into a wash which contained eight gallons of fish oil. Fifteen men were employed to run the washes.

The next step was to take the hides to the "dry loft" where they were hung on "cat sticks" to dry, which took from twenty to thirty days.

After they were dry they went to the "coops" and were piled. Here they were put on tables and the wrinkles were smoothed out from "backs, shanks, flanks and pates." From here they went to the roll room where the "fitter" put them on slatted racks where a mixture of Lenox soap, fish oil, glucose, and salts was put on the grain side of the leather. They were then hung up between steam pipes where they stayed over night.

The last step was putting them through the "rolls" where they were

“roughed.” This process took two days. Each forenoon, ninety sides were “roughed.” In the afternoon, the ninety sides were finished that had been done the morning before.

The hides were weighed on scoop scales, each side weighed from twenty to sixty pounds. They were then put in the warehouse or loaded in boxcars. A boxcar held from 2500 to 2800 sides.

In 1900 a strike occurred in the tannery because they were paying higher wages at the Bradford and Island Falls tanneries, so the Company brought in twenty-two Italians; but they didn’t stay long, for the local workers made their lives miserable. In 1901 twelve Greeks were brought in; two of these were the Forgie Brothers, now of Presque Isle.

The tannery burned September 8, 1908, and was not rebuilt because most of the hemlock trees had been cut. There was over a million dollars worth of stock on hand at the time of the fire. Everything was burned except the hides that were in the vats and in the handler house. About half of this stock was salvaged after the fire.

The tannery employed about eighty people. Those who worked inside were trained workers, most of them coming here from the other tanneries. Most of the local people who worked here were the yard men and the woods men although a few learned the trade of making sole leather.

Charles Sanford was the bookkeeper for many years; he was also the purchasing agent and paymaster.

There were three boardinghouses here at the time of the tannery, one across the stream, one on Tannery Street, and one in the house now owned by Bethe Stone, the latter run by Oliver Rideout.

Corner Fire

May 11, 1894, dawned, a clear day with a strong wind blowing from the south. Mr. G. W. Collins had had men in the woods cutting lumber all winter and the brush was very dry. This was west of Dan Bradstreet’s farm.

Some people say that against the advice of the men, Mr. Collins set this brush afire in order to clear the land. Others say that sparks from one of the men’s pipes may have started the fire; at any rate the fire was started and soon was beyond control.

With the strong wind blowing from the south the fire swept swiftly northward through the dry slash until it reached the Joshua Fulton

place about noon. These were the first buildings to burn. Sparks from the Fulton place soon started fires at the Corner.

Twenty-eight buildings were burned including the hotels of Bedford Hume and G. W. Collins, the latter a large building of nearly fifty rooms. Attached to the rear was a long carriage shed, housing many wagons. In the hotel lived several families.

Three stores were burned—Mr. Pryor's grocery store, Sam Powers' furniture store, and Richard Perkins' jewelry store—in addition to the Post Office (Mrs. Ada A. Perkins was postmistress at the time), the schoolhouse and all of the private dwellings except that of Frederick Whited, which stood a little to the east.

Inside of an hour the village was burned flat. The heat was intense and the whole place seemed to be one sheet of flame. Furniture was moved out of the houses only to be burned in the street.

It is told that Mr. Pryor's store might have been saved when the fire started if the men had been there, but they were all at work in the fields. Why they left their homes unguarded is a mystery, when the fire could have been seen sweeping rapidly from the south.

Mr. Charles Murphy tells that he was at home at the Corner at the time, a boy of fifteen. His mother had two trunks in the house. One contained quilts, winter clothing, and other things; the other old clothing and odds and ends. His mother was not at home when the fire started, so Charles rushed in the house, grabbed a trunk and carried it out, then went back and got a rocking chair. By that time he could not get in again, so all he saved was the trunk and chair. When the trunk was opened, of course it was the one with the old clothing.

A Mrs. Bradstreet who was living in the hotel was in bed with a three-day old baby. When the hotel caught fire she got up, took her baby and walked to the Whited house. In those days that was an unheard of thing, for then they kept a new mother in bed for two weeks.

Where the people stayed after the conflagration is not known. Probably some stayed at the Whited home; others were taken in by kind friends at the Boundary and the Center.

The men were so incensed by the fact that the fire was believed to have been set that they threatened to do dreadful things to Mr. Collins. In order to protect himself it is said he carried a pitchfork with him for several days. But the men's anger cooled as quickly as it had been roused and Mr. Collins went unharmed.

How slowly news traveled in those days! No telephones, no telegraph, or radio to summon help from nearby towns—not even a bucket brigade that day.

What a difference, too, in the newspaper reports! No headlines say-

ing a town had been wiped out by fire. One week afterward, on an inside sheet, under a small headline, only an inch was given to the tragedy.

The Corner was never rebuilt. Allen Boone and Joshua Fulton were the only two to start over again. The others either left town or built homes at the Center.

It is the author's opinion that the Corner would never have grown much larger even if there had been no fire. The sawmill was built on the stream at the Center, the starch factory was there too, and the next year the railroad came through the Center.

Boundary Fire

It was a week before Christmas 1894. The ground was frozen, but there was no snow. About dark a pink glow illuminated the sky at the Boundary. Soon it was discovered that the glow came from a fire at the old mill.

Everyone—men, women, and children—rushed to the fire, in wagons, on horseback, and on foot—on the run. Then as now a fire was an event. By that time the mill was a blazing inferno, and the men, young and old, waged a fierce fight to save the nearby buildings.

The fire company was a bucket brigade reaching from the buildings to the pond; men, women, and even children worked frantically.

The huge timbers from which the mill had been built over sixty years before were dry as tinder and soon nothing was left but smouldering ashes and twisted machinery.

Mr. Collins, who owned the mill at the time, arrived at the height of the fire, but there was nothing he could do but watch it burn.

This was the second large fire in the town inside of a year, and both of them caused heavy losses to Mr. Collins.

Blacksmiths

The first blacksmith of which there is a record was Nathaniel Rideout, who came here in 1845. He had a shop on his farm on the Corner Road where he pounded out a living for his eighteen children.

The first one at the Center was George Loudon, better known as London, who came to Bunker Hill in 1844. He later moved his shop to the Center on the location of the Gard Weeks house.

Albion Huntington had a shop at the Corner, which miraculously escaped the fire in '94. It is still standing at a rakish angle in a very dilapidated state. Moses Cluff also had a shop at the Corner.

Thomas Huntington had a shop at the Center between 1880-90 in the building that is today the home of Charles Murphy.

Nelson Day had a shop at the Center about the same time. It was here that George Davidson came in August 1902.

George Davidson's father was born in Aberdeen, Scotland; Mr. Andrew Davidson worked on a farm in Scotland. At that time he could not buy a farm there for the land was owned by landed gentry. Hearing of the wonderful opportunities in Canada, Andrew decided to try his luck in a new land, so he, with his wife and five children, the youngest only ten days old, set sail for their adopted land. He finally reached Kincardine, N. B., in August 1873, obtained a piece of land which he started in to clear to make a farm. It was here that George was born, February 24, 1875.

When George grew up he went to Hartland and there worked eight years at the blacksmith trade. He then came to Bridgewater and worked for a time with Mr. Day. The shop was what is now the barn owned by Mrs. Sadie Sharp. When Mr. Day sold his shop, George rented a shop that sat just below the Ray Yerxa place for five dollars a month. In April 1904 he bought the shop in the center of town. It was twenty-four by thirty-four feet. He built an addition on the back for a woodworking shop. Ben McDonald worked in the woodworking shop for him for twenty years. Wilbur Burlock was his assistant blacksmith for five years. He remained here until 1939. In that year he moved to a shop below the so-called Asa Bradstreet store. Here his equipment still is and he hopes to return to work again in the near future.

Mr. Davidson was very popular, and day after day the shop would be filled with men and boys waiting to have their horses shod, in the meantime spinning yarns. How different today when horses are so few!

He married Mrs. Ida McIntyre. To them were born nine girls and one boy. The boy died when less than a year old. Six of the girls are still living in town: Margaret (Lilley), Kathleen (Landers), Phyllis (Trecartin), Myrtle (Foster), Frances (Murphy), and Alta. He also has four step children, two of them living in town: Gladys (McIlroy) and Walter McIntyre.

He is a kind and loving father, caring for his children and grandchildren, sheltering all who come by or are in need. He is an ardent worker in the church, becoming a member in 1918.

He has been a blacksmith in the town for fifty years, and worked eight years before coming here, and hopes to continue. His old shop is torn down and a garage now takes its place.

The only blacksmith shops in town today are owned by Mr. Davidson, another one is owned by Murry Foster below the Joe Smith farm.

Druggists

The first druggist in town was William Thistle who came from Ashland, Maine, in 1906. He rented part of the Freeman block for his store. Here he carried on his business, in this small store, for twenty years.

In 1916 he and J. Howard Farley built the concrete block in the center of town where he had the south half for his new store. He was in this new location only about five years when failing health caused him to retire. He then sold the business to Carlton Hutchins who remained about five years, then moved to a larger field, Mars Hill.

Tom Nickerson, a local boy who had completed his course of pharmacy at a school in Boston, took over Mr. Hutchins' business. Tom was an excellent druggist and very popular, but with no resident physician the trade was growing less, so after a few years Tom closed out his business and moved to Mars Hill where he worked for a time with Mr. Hutchins, but the work was too confining and his health became impaired, so he turned to outside work. His death in May 1953 came as a shock to his many friends in the town. The town, for many years now, has been without a drugstore. That part of the store is now used as the post office.

Bridgewater Grange No. 332

On June 25, 1896, a group of men and women living on the Snow Road met and organized the Grange. Their first meeting was held in the schoolhouse in that district.

The fifteen charter members were Elisha Bessie Jr., Robert Burns, Annabelle Burns, J. Norman Durgin, Rosalie Durgin, G. Wilmot Hartley, Edmund Hayes, May Parsons, Howard Sargent, Phillip Smith, Mrs. Phillip Smith, A. M. Stackpole Sr., Mrs. A. M. Stackpole Sr., Jerry Turner, Mrs. Jerry Turner.

The Master of Aroostook Pomona and the Secretary of Pomona, Ezra McGlauffin and Ernest F. McGlauffin were present to organize the Grange.

The following were elected to office:

<i>Master</i> G. Wilmot Hartley	<i>Assistant Stewart</i> Jerry Turner
<i>Overseer</i> Elisha Bessie	<i>Gate Keeper</i> Phillip Smith
<i>Chaplain</i> Edmund Hayes	<i>Ceres</i> Mrs. Phillip Smith
<i>Lecturer</i> Robert Burns	<i>Pomona</i> Mrs. A. M. Stackpole Sr.
<i>Secretary</i> J. Norman Durgin	<i>Flora</i> Mrs. Jerry Turner
<i>Treasurer</i> A. M. Stackpole Sr.	<i>Lady Asst. Stewart</i> Rosalie Durgin
<i>Stewart</i> Howard Sargent	<i>Ins. Agent</i> A. M. Stackpole Sr.

After the officers were installed, the charter members were obligated and instructed in the four degrees. They paid their dues and the Charter fee of \$20.00, receiving the Charter in October of the same year.

Only a few meetings were held in the schoolhouse, then they rented the Town Hall where they held meetings about a year, then they rented the Odd Fellows' Hall, which was over the Town Hall.

The first four Masters were G. Wilmot Hartley, Elisha Bessie Jr., Martin S. Rideout, and Charles Ackerson. Others who served as Master were John Kimball Sr., Guy Allen, Phoebe Carmichael, Forest Bradstreet, Alton Fullerton. There must have been others but the old Secretary's book cannot be found. The last Secretary's book is in the possession of Mrs. Hilda Morse who supplied the following list of Masters:

1932-33	Scholey Kingsbury
1934	Clara Hartley
1935-38	Victor Ketchum
1939	Vera Fullerton
1940	Alletta Smith
1941	Sam Hartley

The Grange surrendered its Charter, November 23, 1942. What a pity it couldn't have kept on until 1946 to celebrate the fiftieth anni-

versary and award one Golden Sheaf Certificate, to Howard Sargent, the only living member.

It is interesting to note that G. Wilmot Hartley was the first Master; forty-six years later his nephew, Sam Hartley, was the last Master.

Crescent Rebekah Lodge No. 121

Crescent Rebekah Lodge No. 121 was instituted, May 16, 1907, with the following charter members:

Charles Ackerson†	Alice Monteith
Doris B. Ackerson†	Barbara Morton
George Capen†	Fannie Scott†
Fred Estabrook	Frances Simonson
James H. Farley†	Annie Slipp†
Totford Gregg†	Alletta C. Smith
Hiram Kimball†	Priscilla Welch†
Eugene Monteith	Eliza J. West†
Edwin B. Morton†	Minnie Peters
Robert Scott†	Idella M. Ackerson
Fleetwood Simonson†	Eliza Jamison†
John H. Slipp†	Victoria A. Parks†
Joseph Smith	Mary Ross†
Joseph Welch†	Amber Slipp
Edward L. West†	Geneva B. Slipp
Victor Peters	Charles Cox†
Eldora Ackerson†	George A. Kimball†
Maggie M. Ackerson†	Walter London†
Mary Capen	Grover McCluskey†
Clara Estabrook†	Almon McIntyre†
Annie Farley	Martin S. Rideout†
Sadie C. Gregg†	Harris G. Stackpole†
Camilla Kimball	

Deceased members†

Of these forty-five charter members there are only two that are in good standing today—Annie Farley and Frances Simonson.

Following is the list of Noble Grands and the years they served:

1907 Barbara Morton	1931 Mabel Twitchell
1908 Barbara Morton	1932 Vena Roberts
1909 Alletta Smith	1933 Julia Ewings
1910 Idella Ackerson	1934 Vera Fullerton
1911 Fannie Scott†	1935 Gladys McIlroy
1912 Alletta Smith	1936 Mildred Farley†
1913 Jennie Sharp†	1937 Gladys McIlroy
1914 Phoebe Carmichael†	1938 Rena Fletcher
1915 Phoebe Carmichael†	1939 Alice Everett†
1916 Frances Simonson	1940 Hilda Morse
1917 Mabel Jamison†	1941 Kathleen Landers
1918 Cecelia McNinch	1942 Edna Packard
1919 Annie Farley	1943 Elsie Nickerson
1920 Eliza Jamison†	1944 Bethe McDonald
1921 Georgie Smith†	1945 Betty Packard
1922 June Wilson†	1946 Nettie Weeks
1923 Geneva Fletcher	1947 Mertelle Finnemore
1924 Blanche Coates†	1948 Doris Stackpole
1925 Gertie Wood	1949 Phyllis Bradbury
1926 Beatrice Barrett	1950 Freda Jamison
1927 Frances Simonson	1951 Thurley Keegan
1928 Elizabeth Commins	1952 Boyce Bradbury
1929 Clara Hartley	1953
1930 Clara Hartley	

Deceased†

The Lodge has had six Deputy Presidents of the District. These are appointed by the State President every four years. Phoebe Carmichael was the first to act as Deputy President. For years after that, no one else would serve until Clara Hartley took the office. Since then they have taken their turn. They are Phoebe Carmichael, Clara Hartley, Gladys McIlroy, Mabel Twitchell, Beatrice Barrett, and Vena Roberts.

In 1943 Gladys McIlroy served as Conductor of the Rebekah Assembly of Maine, being appointed by Marie Clark of Millinocket, State President.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge was organized in 1895. It has been mentioned elsewhere in the book, but briefly. It is with regret that the author has not been able to secure the list of charter members and Past Noble Grands.

Bridgewater Garden Club

The Bridgewater Garden Club was organized in July 1938 with Clara Hartley as the first president. The charter members were Clara Hartley, Annie Rideout, Etta Rideout, Alice Everett, Betty Packard, Annie Farley, Hilda Morse, Gladys McIlroy, Edna Packard, and Elsie Nickerson. From these few members it grew in a few years to over twenty-five.

The only requirement for being a member was an interest in gardening. The club carried out a number of worthwhile projects. One of them was beautifying the cemetery by planting flowers on vacant lots and making borders along the edges. Several years, during the summer months, the club gave flowers at funerals, gathered from the gardens and arranged into beautiful sprays. Several times they sponsored flower shows and teas which were very, very successful and showed the townspeople what could be done in a small community. The shows were not limited to club members, but anyone who grew flowers was invited to participate. Other projects have been carried out over the years.

Those who have served as president are:

1938 Clara Hartley	1946 Hilda Morse
1939 Clara Hartley	1947 Doris Stone
1940 Clara Hartley	1948 Vera Fullerton
1941 Betty Packard	1949 Edna Packard
1942 Nettie Weeks	1950 Geneva Fletcher
1943 Betty Packard	1951 Laura Bradbury
1944 Margaret Yerxa	1952 Doris Hartley
1945 Gladys McIlroy	

The club joined the Maine Federation of Garden Clubs in 1940, from which they gain a great deal of help. It is hoped this club will continue to grow and encourage the growing of more beautiful flowers and the development of aesthetic tastes.

Bridgewater Women's Club

In 1936 the Bridgewater Women's Club was organized and federated with the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs at the same time.

The object of the club is intellectual and social development.

The projects have been varied, but always with the improvement of the community in view, chiefly the schools and the church.

Some of these projects have been: furnishing milk for the lower grades during the winter months for several years; helping needy families at Christmas; purchasing piano, drinking fountain, clock, book-cases, books, and newspapers for the schools.

The teachers' reception was sponsored by the club each fall for several years.

The largest project accomplished was repairing the organ at the church.

Many teas have been enjoyed, gathering together other women of the town and neighboring towns. The money received from these teas has been used to answer calls from outside the organization.

Each year some need is met and accomplished through this civic-minded group.

Their knowledge of state, national, and international affairs is broadened through study topics at each meeting. Social life and outstanding personalities are also taken up.

The motto of the club is, "Let us be content to work, to do the things we can and not pause to fret because it is little." The club colors are green and gold.

This club started with the following twenty-two charter members:

Mrs. Esther Robinson,
first president

Mrs. Helen Ackerson

Mrs. Jessie Bradstreet

Mrs. Mabel Everett

Mrs. Ida Farley

Mrs. Mildred Farley†

Mrs. Clara Hartley

Mrs. Mildred Kingsbury

Mrs. Gladys McIlroy

Mrs. Agnes Nichols

Mrs. Elsie Nickerson

Mrs. Viola Nickerson

Mrs. Vera Niles

Mrs. Gertrude Sargent

Mrs. Jean Simonson

Mrs. Alta Smith

Mrs. Doris Stackpole

Mrs. Mae Stackpole†

Mrs. Zelpha Stackpole

Mrs. Edith Tompkins

Mrs. Mabel Twitchell

Mrs. Edith Whited

Deceased†

In 1939 Mrs. Esther Robinson served as District Director. Today the club has a much larger membership.

The Blind Storekeeper

In the middle 1800's there came to Bridgewater a young man named Hosea Rideout, who was blind.

He bought a building located on the north side of Bunker Hill (on the present Terrill farm) and across from the old farm of Robert Brown, now owned by Garth Slipp. It was a little one-story building nestled among tall willow trees. Today the house and trees are gone and all is a cleared field.

Here Hosea started keeping store, selling such small articles as needles, pins, thread, baking soda (then called saleratus), beans, and candy. He also had a few bolts of cloth of various colors. If one wanted pink calico, he took down pink; if it was blue that was wanted he took down blue; he never made a mistake. How could he do this? He had an infallible memory as we shall see. When he got in some new cloth some kindly neighbor woman would go in and put it on the shelves, always in the same order as the previous colors. Thus he knew by counting down where each color was. He had a place for each article or commodity in the store and never made a mistake. He could tell the difference between each piece of silver money, but had to trust the honesty of his customers when it came to bills. In those days few bills crossed his counter, for everyone was poor and money was scarce, so his sales were naturally small.

The neighbors were very good to Hosea. He knew the time that each farmer did his nightly milking, so nearly every night he would lock his door, take his cane and a little tin pail, and go to one home one night and another the next until he had made the rounds. The farmer would fill the little tin pail with warm milk while the farmer's wife would give him a loaf of freshly-baked bread, a large piece of gingerbread, a few cookies, or something she had cooked that day. Occasionally he could be persuaded to stay for supper, but he was proud and did not want to accept charity. When he did spend the evening, he would entertain his hosts by singing old songs and hymns in his high nasal voice. He would rock and sing an entire evening and never repeat a song.

Hosea lived alone in a little room back of the store where he cooked his frugal meals. The store and living quarters were exceptionally clean. Wood for his stoves was cut and hauled by the kind-hearted neighbors, but he insisted on sawing it up and splitting it himself.

Hosea was a very friendly person, and loved to visit a day or two with neighbors a few miles from his home. Since business was not

very rushing, often on a bright sunny summer morning he would lock the door, take his cane and start walking, and as he enjoyed walking he seldom accepted rides. He would often travel two or three miles to visit his friends, walking along tapping his cane, counting the drive-ways until he reached his destination. Since this was before the days of automobiles, there was no danger of an accident.

In spite of the fact that his trade was small he saved a little money, possibly a few hundred dollars, for his needs were few, because of the kindness of his neighbors. In later years he sold his place to C. E. Lawrence and gave his entire savings to a man in Blaine to care for him for the remainder of his life.

Sometime after Hosea was comfortably settled in his new residence, the man decided to move to California and take Hosea with him. When Hosea learned of this plan he was very unhappy, for he did not want to leave his old friends (they often came to see him when in town) and go among strangers.

For several months Hosea tried to solve his problem, praying he might die before the time came to go. One night he ate his supper as usual, then said he felt tired and went to bed. That night his prayers were answered for the Angel of Death visited him while he slept. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the Smith Cemetery in Bridgewater.

Then and Now

The first Town Report was published in 1903-4. Following is a list of the appropriations for the following years:

	1903	1925	1951
Total Real Estate	\$237,238	\$574,867	\$ 686,587
Total Personal Est. . . .	72,456	104,280	45,055
Total Valuation	309,694	679,147	731,917
All other Pers. Pro. . .	38,061	104,280	26,750
Live Stock	34,395	46,265	18,305
	1903	1925	1951
Assessments			
State Tax	\$871.08	\$4824.34	\$ 6122.12
County Tax	694.73	1433.72	1856.80
Support of Poor	1300.00	3500.00	2000.00
Text Books	150.00	800.00	1845.82

Free High School	500.00	3000.00	4000.00
Roads and Bridges	1000.00	3500.00	9000.00
Street Lights		265.00	800.00
Fire Protection		500.00	2800.00
Supt. of Schools	100.00	300.00	900.00
1st Selectman	100.00	250.00	Town
			Mgr. 2305.00
2nd and 3rd Selectmen	30.00 each	60.00	Councillors 50.00
Treasurer	50.00	72.00	125.00
Clerk	20.00	25.00	30.00
Moderator	3.00	5.00	5.00
Tax Rate . . . . .	.022	.044	.079
Support of Schools	\$1100.00	\$6500.00	\$19,500.00
Teachers' Salaries	1000.00 Approx.	6055.00	19,146.45

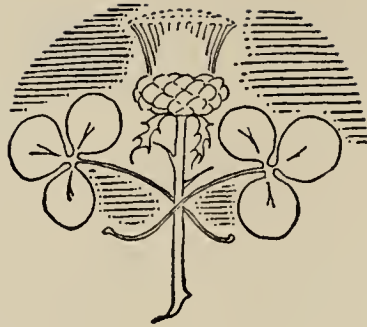
The following list is taken from the account book of Martin S. Rideout, for the years 1891 and 1921.

	1891	1921	1951
Double Harness	\$32.00		
Cream Tartar . . . . .	.20	.60	
Butter . . . . .	.18	.40	
Haircut . . . . .	.25	.35	
Bbl. flour	7.50	14.50	
Milk . . . . .	.10		
Eggs . . . . .	.18	.40	
Tea . . . . .	.40	.60	
Horseshoeing . . . . .	.25		
Scythe . . . . .	.75		
Overalls . . . . .	.65		
Telephone		1.50	

Following are prices of some things he sold:

Bushel of oats	\$.50
50 lbs. pork	3.50
2½ Cd. Wood	2.50
100# Buckwheat meal	1.50
14 bbl. potatoes	14.00

Compare prices with today.



Fact and Fancy

The first settler in the town was Nathaniel Bradstreet, who came here in 1827 and built a sawmill at the Boundary in 1829.

The first settler to make a farm in the town was Joseph Ketchum who came in 1831. He sowed the first wheat in town, May 1832.

The first post office in the town was in the hotel of Joseph Ketchum in 1849.

The first bridge across the Prestile Stream was erected in the winter of 1848-49.

Joseph Ketchum hired the first teacher at the Corner, Hannah Oliver, about 1840.

The town was incorporated in 1858.

The first church at the Boundary was built sometime in the late sixties.

The first church at the Center was in 1865.

The first school at the Center was built in 1885.

The Corner was burned May 11, 1894; the mill at the Boundary was burned in December of the same year.

February 7, 1861, was known as Cold Friday.

The first tannery was built in 1875 by G. W. Collins. It was destroyed by fire in 1884, rebuilt, and destroyed a second time in 1908.

The first resident doctor in the town was W. W. White who came in 1874.

The first starch factory was built in 1875 by George Hibbard.

The railroad came into town in 1894. The Town Hall was built the same year.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge was organized in 1895.

The Grange was organized in 1896, it was discontinued in November 1942.

The first street lights were turned on September 12, 1909.

The first permanent hotel was opened in 1841 at the Corner by Joseph Ketchum.

The first store in town was at the Boundary and was run by Moulton Brothers about 1840. The first one at the Corner was opened by C. F. A. Johnson in 1852. The first one at the Center seems to have been operated by Warren Snow sometime before 1880.

The high school burned in March 1940.

The Hamilton Farley house at the Boundary is the oldest frame house in town.

Mrs. Cyrus Chandler was a homeopathic doctor, using berries, barks, and herbs which she gathered from fields and swamps.

Jimmie Wade, an Englishman, peddled pins, needles, and small wares. He lived across the stream, opposite the Esty place.

The McMullen store used to be called the Line House because it was built half in Maine and half in Canada. It had a counter mounted on wheels. When the U.S. Federal officers raided the store, the owners were warned beforehand, so the counter was on the Canadian side and the officers could do nothing. When the Canadian officers raided the place the counter was always on the American side. The officers from the two countries never seemed to get together for a joint raid for obvious reasons. Rum in those days flowed freely.

"Split Brook," sometimes called "Gin Brook," was at the foot of the hill beyond where Jacob Morse now lives. It got its name because the men used to buy gin at the "Line" and bring it to this brook to "split" it, or dilute it with water.

The hill just beyond this brook used to be called "Sugar Hill." The story is told that Ezra McGary was going up the hill with a barrel of sugar for J. Howard Farley when he was doing business at the "Line." Ezra had nearly reached the top of the hill when the barrel rolled off the wagon, the head of the barrel broke open as it struck the ground and the sugar spilled out as it rolled down the hill.

That part of the road, now between the railroad crossing and the top of the hill on the Corner Road, was called by the people living there "Snarley Flat" because some of them were always in an argument.

One of the early settlers on the West Road was a man named Conley; he lived on the farm where Henry Welch lived, now owned by Paul Kilcollins. Here at this farm the men hauling bark for the tannery would stop for the night. They sometimes left old worn-out boots, so Tom, being a thrifty soul, cut off the tops and threw the feet in a corner. When the men stopped for the night they would undress their feet, which were wet and cold, and put on the boot feet. Sometimes Conley would wear the boot feet to town. This story gave the name "Bootfeet" to the road which today has been changed to "Bootfoot." Some say there was a man once lived on the road by the name of Beaufort (but nothing could be found about him) and through the corruption of his name came the name "Bootfoot."

The Monteith Road sometimes used to be called "Snigdom." The reason for this name was that it was a point where a great deal of Canadian goods was smuggled into town across the border. The people said they would "snig" the goods in—thus the name "Snigdom."

The following three items were taken from the clippings of Adelbert Cookson's scrapbook and are dated 1899:

Snowed last Monday which made fine sleighing. The streets are full of teams and business is brisk. We have more and better stores than any town of its size in the County. Travellers are thick as bees around a molasses barrel.

One of our young men made quite an investment last Saturday. Joseph C. Smith, son of Joseph C. Smith Sr. bought four houses and land on B and A Street, north side, from Geo. H. Collins of Presque Isle. Mr. Collins and wife were in town last Saturday to make the transfer.

Al. Chandler planted, cared for and dug more acres of potatoes the past season than any man in Aroostook, over 100 acres. This is just one of his varied businesses. He is a lumberman, and last summer he lost his sawmill, in spite of that he filled all of his lumber orders. He has a steam mill at Three Brooks and a portable mill at Westfield with five crews of men in the woods, 140 men and many horses. He has a starch factory at the Center where he made 200 tons of starch and also has a store.

For a one man business this is something enormous. We don't blame the town for being proud of their Potato King.

Star Herald Reporter.

At one time there lived a family by the name of Watkins on the Corner Road. They were simple, kindly people. The young folks often gathered there for an evening of fun and frolic, often playing jokes on the old gentleman.

One day the boys found a dead dog in the neighborhood and decided to give it to the old folks in an unusual way.

On Sunday night while the old lady was cooking supper at the fireplace some of the younger boys arrived. They sat down near the door and began to sing and whistle. In the meantime the older boys had gathered at the back of the house. One climbed up, quietly, on the low roof while the others boosted up the dog which was then dropped down the wide chimney.

Down came the dead dog and soot right into the pots and pans and supper. The young boys, followed by the old man, made a rush for the door, crowding to get through, which delayed them purposely. When they finally got outside not a person was in sight. The sun was slipping behind the horizon and all was quiet and peaceful.

Mr. Watkins threatened dire things to the boys who did it, but of course he never did, and never found out who it was.

Moody Tompkins went into Fred Snow's store one day and asked if he had a good shotgun.

"Sure, I have, a very powerful gun, too. Shoots anything from a partridge to a bear," said Fred.

"How much is it?"

"Ten dollars with a box of cartridges to boot."

Moody bought the gun and asked where he could find good hunting. He was told to go out to Number Nine. The next morning Moody started out with his powerful gun, and powerful it was as he soon found out. He was walking along the tote road when he saw a partridge. He pulled up the old gun, took aim, and let it go.

This is what Moody said about it. "I don't remember a thing after the gun exploded for half an hour. When I came to I was laying on the ground with the gun ten feet away. I got up still in a daze, shook myself and looked at my feet and one of my shoes was gone. I then begun to look for my pocketbook which I always carry in my shirt breast pocket. I felt for it. It wasn't there, so I felt in my pants pocket and felt it, but it was still in my shirt pocket, for the shirt had got twisted around my body. I always wear a four-in-hand tie, so I felt for that. It was there but it was tied in a perfect knot bow. That sure was a powerful gun. Fred didn't lie about it after all."

During the days of prohibition many unscrupulous men in the county made quite a thing of smuggling liquor from Canada and selling it here and in the southern part of the state.

One spring one of the local boys had a new car which happened to be the same as the car of one of the "Rum Runners." The man found it out, so he made the acquaintance of the boy, whom we'll call Mike, and on several occasions stopped and talked over the merits of their cars.

One Saturday night when the town was full of people, Mr. Rum Runner drove into town and stopped near the Farley store. He saw Mike on the street and after talking cars a few minutes said, "Say, Mike, how would you like to make \$20 easy, tonight?"

"I sure would, but how?" answered Mike.

"Have you been down through town tonight?"

"Yes, several times."

"Anyone stop you?"

"Yes, there's several officers down by the corner this side of the little schoolhouse."

"I thought so. Now listen, if you want that \$20 you take my car and go down through, I'll take your car and go up the station road and out by way of the Bootfoot Road and meet you in the swamp (below the Smith place)."

"What'll I do if they search the car?" asked Mike.

"They won't, you've been down several times already."

"I'll do it," said Mike.

So off they started. Mike was stopped, but he kept the car in gear. The officers flashed their lights in the car, then said, "All right, go on." Mike started off slowly, seeing the other car come off the crossroad and go on ahead. When he reached the top of McKeen hill he saw the other car had stopped in the swamp. He pulled up behind, got out, got his \$20, got in his own car and half an hour later drove slowly back in town, while Mr. Rum Runner had outwitted the officers and was on his way.

One time G. W. Collins sent Ami to the gristmill with a load of buckwheat to be ground. Ami had to wait an hour or two before he could get it, so he put the oxen in a barn and went up to the Line House for refreshment. When he came back to the mill he was feeling a bit groggy, but he got the grist loaded and started for home. Before he got half way he got so sleepy that he stopped the team, got out, got under the cart, and went to sleep. He slept so long that the oxen got tired, and some way got loose from the cart and wandered off, leaving

Ami under the cart still asleep. A man came by and roused Ami out of his stupor. Ami got up, looked around and said, "Where am I and who am I? If I am Ami I've lost a darn good yoke of oxen; if I am not Ami I've found a good cart with a load of grist." The man told him where he was and who he was and found the oxen for him and Ami got home after a fashion, still quite woozie. When G.W. saw him he said, "Exactly, my boy, I'll have to send another man with you the next time you leave the farm."

Selectmen Since 1903

	First	Second	Third
1903	A. M. Stackpole, Sr.	I. V. Durgin	M. S. Rideout
1904	"	"	"
1905	"	"	"
1906	"	"	"
1907	"	H. G. Stackpole	George Kimball
1908	"	"	"
1909	H. G. Stackpole	H. E. Pryor	John Sargent
1910	"	"	"
1911	"	"	"
1912	"	O. D. Noble	"
1913	"	H. A. Tompkins	H. M. Kimball
1914	"	John Sargent	"
1915	"	"	"
1916	"	"	S. J. Hartley
1917	"	M. S. Rideout	E. W. Fulton
1918	"	B. C. Slipp	"
1919	"	"	W. L. Milliken
1920	A. M. Stackpole, Jr.	Fred Whited	S. J. Hartley
1921	"	S. J. Hartley	E. W. Fulton
1922	H. G. Stackpole	"	N. L. Jamison
1923	"	"	"
1924	"	"	E. G. Barker
1925	"	Fred Whited	"
1926	"	"	"
1927	"	"	"
1928	"	G. S. Twitchell	"
1929	"	"	"

1930	"	Forest Bradstreet	"
1931	"	"	Ralph Everett
1932	"	"	"
1933	"	"	E. G. Barker
1934	H.A. Tompkins	Victor Ketchum	Ralph Stackpole
1935	"	"	"
1936	D. W. Stackpole	"	"
1937	"	"	"
1938	"	"	C. L. Simonson
1939	Thomas Nickerson	Ralph Stackpole	"
1940	"	"	John Webber
1941	"	"	"

In 1942 the town changed to the Town Manager form of government.

There was no record in the Town Reports of a Tax Collector until 1910. George Barrett served from 1910 to 1921, C. L. Sharp from 1922 to 1935, and Arthur Libby from 1936 to 1941.

R. J. Kimball was Town Clerk from 1903 to 1924. H. A. McIlroy from 1925 to the present time.

Town Treasurers have been C. E. Folsom from 1903 to 1908, A. M. Stackpole from 1909 to 1917, Fred Snow from 1918 to 1934, G. S. Twitchell from 1935 to 1940, and Ralph Milliken from 1941 to the present time.

Railroads

Probably there is no one, or very few people, in the town today who know that at one time a railroad was proposed to run from the Boundary, then known as Baird's Mills, to the St. John River. Indeed a subsidy of \$100,000. was obtained from the Provincial government of New Brunswick. If such a railroad had been built it would have made of Baird's Mills, in effect, a Provincial village. This proposition occurred about 1870-80.

About 1880 or shortly after there was talk of building a railroad from Bangor northward into Aroostook County, to be known as the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. Through such influential men as Hon. A. A. Burleigh and Mr. Cram and others in the county the railroad became a reality. The American Express Company also contributed \$200,000 toward the project. In 1892 it was built to Houlton and in 1894 it was completed through Bridgewater as far as Caribou.

The first Station Agent was Edwin Bliss Morton who came on the first passenger train to pass through the town the latter part of December. Mr. Morton started his duties January 1, 1895, remaining here until 1914 when he left to take a similar position in Mars Hill.

Following is a list of the Agents and the length of time they served. It will be noticed that some were here only a few months as relief agents, until a permanent agent could be secured.

Edwin Bliss Morton	1- 1-1895 to 3-20-1914
David R. Embleton	3-21-1914 to 4-27-1914
Fred Crozier	4-28-1914 to 10-29-1916
Claude Thistle	10-30-1916 to 12-30-1920
Vincent J. O'Brien	12-31-1920 to 2- 1-1921
Guy R. Lilley	2- 1-1921 to 4-27-1948
Newell C. Labbe	4-28-1948 to 5-23-1948
Richard J. Cote	5-24-1948 to 5-30-1948
William R. Green	6- 1-1948 to 6-27-1948
Robert P. Groves	6-28-1948 to 11-28-1948
P. A. Carroll	11-29-1948 to 7-10-1949
Cecil A. Hall	7-11-1949 to date

The above list was secured through the kindness of Cecil A. Hall in cooperation with Gordon White, Traveling Auditor for the railroad, who obtained the information through the Bangor office.

Cecil A. Hall, the present Station Agent is a native of the town, and strangely enough he received his training in the town under the able instruction of Guy R. Lilley, starting in 1928. In September 1929, he went to work for the Bangor and Aroostook as car clerk, at Caribou. He was then transferred to Madawaska for two months, then to Fort Kent where he was chief clerk, remaining there until June 1930. He was then transferred to Caribou where he remained for two years as billing clerk.

During the depression years the Company reduced its working force, so he was laid off until January 1934 when he went to Presque Isle and worked as freight porter for six months. He was again laid off until October 1934 when he went to Limestone as billing clerk and operator. In June of 1935 he was again laid off until fall when he went to Goodrich Siding on the Limestone Branch, which was opened winters in the potato-shipping season. This was his first Station Agent position.

In 1936 he was sent to Jemmland in the town of New Sweden as relief agent for a year.

From 1937-40 he was agent at Goodrich during the winter months, and during the summers he did spare work. This work took him all over the road from Oakfield to St. Francis. In 1940 he went to Masardis as Station Agent. This was his first Station that was opened the year round and was his to hold as long as he wished to stay provided he did his work satisfactorily. He was here until 1946. At that time some of his children were old enough to attend high school and as there was no high school there he was fortunate enough to get a Station at Mapleton where he remained until 1948. At Mr. Lilley's death the Station at Bridgewater was open for anyone who had the most seniority and who wanted the position. Cecil applied, and being the oldest man in railroad years of service who wanted the position he got it. He moved here in July 1949, at that time taking over his new duties.

Cecil has three sons and three daughters, so we see he had to work hard to provide for them in these years of rising prices. He has done his work well, not waiting for the big jobs, but willing to do the small jobs faithfully and well, and so being rewarded by receiving the larger positions. He is another home town boy who has made good.

The railroad, in 1895, opened new possibilities to the town. More goods could be brought in by train than by teams and transportation was cheaper. Lumber and grains could be shipped to the outside markets and potatoes were raised on a much larger acreage.

Today the county is one of the largest, if not the largest, potato empire in the United States, and Bridgewater contributes its share to making this empire possible, having excellent potato land and farmers who know how to produce the best crops.

The town of Bridgewater has made great progress in its first 125 years. From a wilderness it has grown to a town of over 1200 people. From a handful of people with no means of travel except on the stream, to a town with a network of hard surfaced roads where cars travel at great speed, travel by train or airplane. From a village with no outside communication to a town with communication to the entire world by telephone, telegraph, radio and television. From transportation by ox cart to transportation by rail, truck and airplane. From a place where farming was only a garden patch with a few potatoes, and grain planted around the stumps, to a place with wide fields, a town that takes its place in raising its share of potatoes in the "potato empire of the country." From homes and farms with meager necessities, where all the labor was done by hand to a town with all the modern conveniences in the homes and the most modern machinery on the farms and at least one automobile in every home.

It is true there are some things the town could improve upon, as an adequate water system for household consumption and fire protection. This is no new idea, it was considered by the Town Fathers many years ago when they proposed bringing water from Whited or Nine Lakes. Many towns have solved this problem by digging deep wells for their water systems. A doctor would be an asset to the town and a doctor would bring back the drugstore.

Another improvement would be a Library. Many towns of much smaller populations have libraries. It would be a great help to the school children, would increase the desire for reading among adults and would bring a wider variety and better reading material to the adults and everyone in general.

In spite of some of these shortcomings the people can point with pride to their town and know it is one of the finest towns in the country. They have done this through their individual and united efforts. All have contributed their share, some to a greater degree than others, but all can point with pride and say, "This is my town. I have helped to make it what it is. I am proud to be a citizen of Bridgewater."

